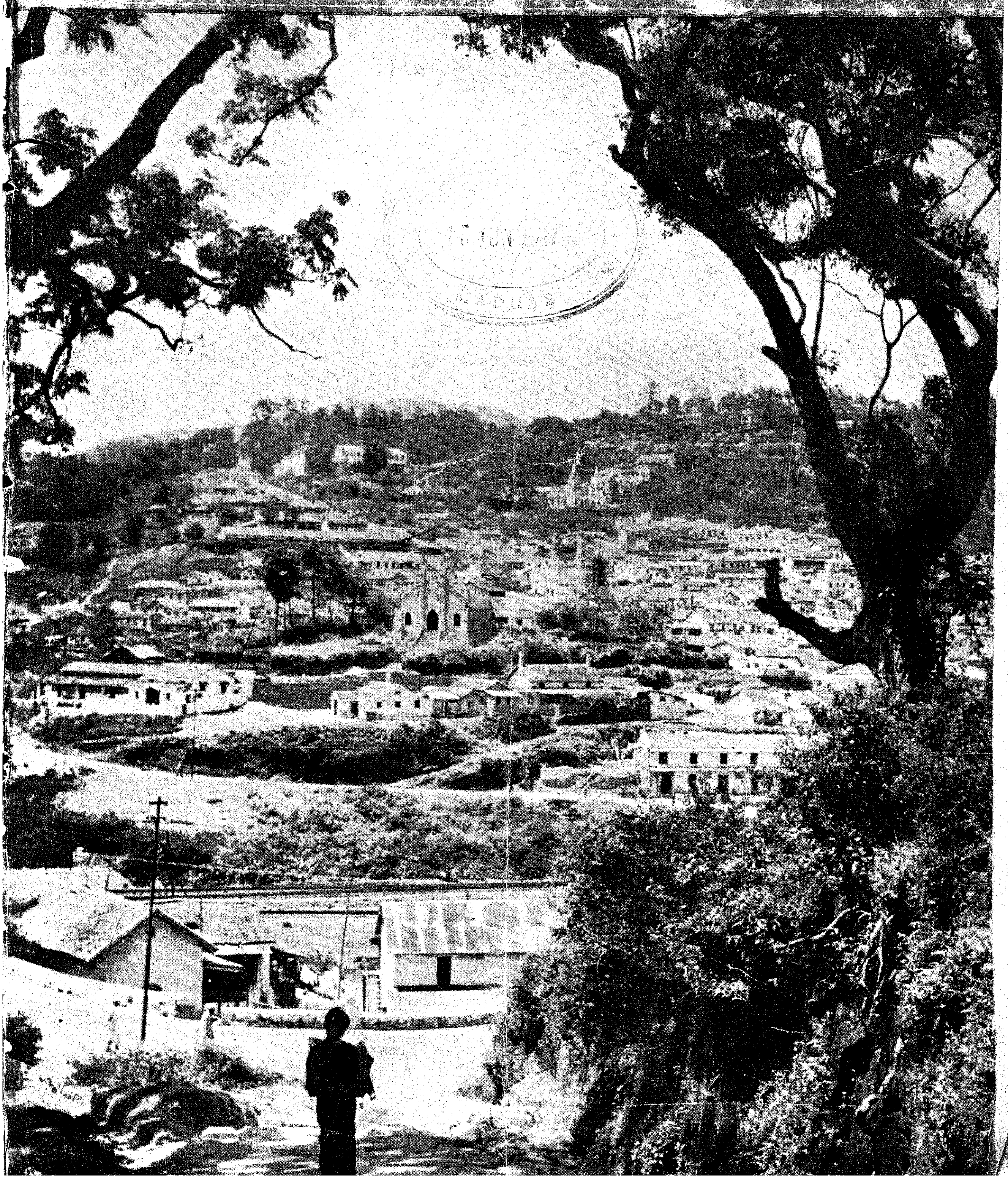
MADRAS INFORMATION



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Madras Information

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Editorial Notes

Planned Industrialization

An important and vital step in the promotion of industrialization of the province on a planned basis has been taken by the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Mr. H. Sitarama Reddy, by the appointment of a Committee for the purpose. The Committee, which is wholly non-official in complexion, has been given comprehensive terms of reference, which should enable it to advise the Government on all aspects of the problem, and to recommend appropriate measures for achieving the purpose in view. Attention may be drawn to a few of the terms of reference which indicate the potentially beneficial work that the Committee can turn out. It has been asked to draw up a short-term as well as a long-term plan for industrialization; it has been asked to report on the extent of Government assistance that can be accorded to the various industries and the manner in which that assistance can be given; and it has been asked to advise on the nature and extent of the control which should be exercised by the Government over the industries and to suggest which industries should be State-owned, State-controlled and left to private enterprise. These involve intricate questions of both policy and administration, and it is on the evolution of satisfactory principles which can form the constituents of a well-thought-out policy and on the efficient administration of the policy thus formulated that successful planned industrialization ultimately depends and can become an accomplished fact. The Committee is also expected to report on the manner in which and the extent to which labour should participate in the profits of industry and whether any conditions should be imposed on industries that may be started hereafter in the interests of labour.

Regional Planning

It is admitted that Madras is comparatively backward in industrial progress and equally clearly is it admitted as a result of recent experience that industrial progress is co-terminous with systematic planning. The Provincial Government's powers in this matter may be limited to some extent by the

MAIN FEATURES

(1) Press Notes
(2) Textile Control
(3) University Education
(4) Labour Situation
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(6) Khadi Scheme
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(8) The Fight against Plague

constitutional set-up and the statutory division of powers between the Centre and the provinces. For the fulfilment of certain essential pre-conditions of progress like availability of machinery, tariff protection to industries and so on, the goodwill and co-operation of the Central Government are indispensable. But subject to these limitations, each provincial government can substantially aid progress in the direction of industrialization by helping in the drawing up and execution of schemes of industrialization on a regional basis which will provide for the beneficial and maximum utilization of existing local facilities like raw materials, power—both man-power and electric power—, capital and technical skill, in the furtherance of local interests.

That the Government are in earnest about the matter and are anxious to do everything possible to expedite the work in this connexion is clear from the time-limit of three months set for the completion of the Committee's labours and the injunction to the Committee to submit a preliminary report and interim reports as and when investigations about a particular subject are completed. Madras has an enormous industrial potential which has remained untapped so far. It has capital waiting for remunerative employment and raw-materials for the starting of mining, cotton, paper, cement and chemical fertilizer industries. If this latent industrial potential is properly exploited, the province can attain that much-desired but invariably elusive thing known as a balanced economy, with which will be achieved also an improvement in the standard of living of the masses.

Financial Provision

When the Committee's report is ready, the implementation of the recommendations should be facilitated by the establishment of the Industrial Finance Corporation, with a capital of a crore of rupees, for which provision has been made in the Madras Budget for 1947-48. The Corporation while working under Government auspices will provide ample opportunities for private capital to be beneficially invested in enterprises which will strengthen the economic foundations of the province. If the Government decide that any industries should be run as State-owned and State-managed industries, or in other words nationalized, the Budget has also provided for a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs for capital outlay likely to be required under this head.

Cloth Control—Its Implications

Undoubtedly a good deal of feeling prevails among the public as regards the continuance of price and distribution control in respect of a number of commodities even after the emergency of war has passed off and conditions of peace prevail. It is a subject on which probably there can be argument both hot and long; but the imperative consideration that bears remembrance is that what we are having now is only a technical peace and that in so far as world production levels have not attained their pre-war tempo, conditions of commodity scarcity that prevailed during war time are bound to continue necessitating the continuance of the war-time controls over at least the most essential commodities like food and cloth.

Two vital considerations enter into the determination of the question of retaining or abolishing controls. One is the supreme need to enable the vast and numerous body of consumers to procure their essential requirements at a fair price and the second is to ensure a continuous and regular flow of supplies of commodities in short supply so as to facilitate the maintenance of the rationing system in tact. Associated with this latter problem is the super-need to eradicate black-marketing, which seems to flourish the more extensively the greater the efforts that are made to put an end to it. Particularly essential it is to take into account these considerations when considering the question of de-controlling food and cloth distribution.

It was good, therefore, that at the press conference which he held a few days back, the Hon'ble Minister for Industries firmly scouted the idea of eliminating control over cloth prices and distribution and leaving the consuming public to the tender mercies of scarcity, high prices and black-marketeters, the crevices of whose souls are as black as the markets in which they operate. The supply question in regard to cloth being as unsatisfactory as it is and with production still terribly handicapped by labour strikes and depreciated and not easily replaceable machinery, de-control of cloth distribution would inevitably provide a dangerous fillip to price racketing and the poor consumer will not get even the limited amount of cloth that he is assured under the present distribution scheme. At the rate of 10 yards per head our total requirements are for 29,639 bales of cloth, which is made up at present by 8,966 bales of mill-cloth, both locally produced and allotted from the all-India pool and 20,673 bales of handloom cloth. There is no immediate prospect of augmentation of the existing quotas of

allotment as firstly, the distribution can be adjusted only on an all-India basis and secondly, the impediments which have so far prevented the stepping-up of production figures continue to exist. In the matter of cloth, as in the matter of food, therefore, the people must be prepared for the persistence of austerity conditions, unless the over-all situation with respect to production shows definite improvement.

Handloom Cloth

This brings us to the question of handloom cloth production as a method of mitigating cloth shortage. The problems in this connection are the high prices of handloom cloth and the inadequate supplies of yarn to the handloom weavers. The prices of handloom cloth can be brought down only as a consequence of regulation of the wages of handloom workers and by increasing the quotas of yarn to the weavers. The figures given by the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Information in the course of his address to the Provincial National Handloom Weavers' Conference held in Madras about our yarn requirements are illuminating and provide the key to the present position. The monthly quota of yarn allocated to the Madras province is 21,000 bales whereas the number of looms that will have to be fed are about 496,000. Obviously the yarn available can feed the looms for only 10 days in the month; but admittedly there is considerable traffic in black-market yarn even as there is a number of bogus looms which enter into the calculation in the matter of yarn distribution. By and large it means that a substantial quantity of yarn is available in the black-market or alternately that a number of bogus handloom weavers are cornering stocks on the basis of spurious and non-existent looms. Both are nefarious practices which affect the supplies of handloom cloth to the consumers and provide the only tenable explanation for prevailing high prices.

Both these practices must be put a stop to if the position with regard to handloom cloth is to improve. The weavers themselves can do a lot to prevent yarn essential for **bona fide** weaving establishments from being cornered by bogus operators in the yarn market for being disposed of in the black-market. They should also welcome price fixation and regulation of wages of the handloom weavers, as they are in the interests of all the honest weavers and the consuming public. The Government is interested as much in safeguarding the interests of the weavers as they are in protecting the interests of the consumers. The latter cannot be sacrificed for enabling some sections of weavers to earn clandestine profits. The fundamental requirement being to increase cloth supplies, the Government will have to do everything necessary to ensure that result and from this standpoint price and wage fixation cannot be avoided.

Marked Improvement in Procurement

For the week ended May 22, it has been possible to procure nearly 35,073 tons, which is slightly above the off-take during the same period. The figure for the previous week was only 30,110 tons. During this week it has been possible for procurement to overtake the off-take.

Figures shown districtwar indicate that the procurement in the Circars has been progressing steadily with West Godavari topping the list with a quantity of **9,157** tons closely followed by Kistna which has about **4,457** tons. The corresponding figures for Kistna for the previous week was only **2,318** tons. Procurement work in East Godavari is also understood to be keeping up a high pace **3,361** tons being the figure for the week under review while the figure for the previous week was only **1,344** tons. Although no appreciable improvement could be seen in Guntur where for the week-ended May 22, the quantity procured was only **1,368** tons while the figure for the previous week was **1,344**. It is claimed that more rice is forthcoming in that district which, however, could not be procured for want of sufficient transport and storage facilities.

Taking the province as a whole, procurement for the week ended May 15 was roughly 8,000 tons more than the previous week and for the week ended May 22, 5,000 tons more

It is significant that the improvement is more marked in the Andhra districts. West Godavari showing roughly 1,500 tons and Kistna 2,000 tons more than the previous week.

Procurement in other districts is progressing steadily with Tanjore giving out a figure of 2,696 tons and Nellore 2,406 tons.

If the procurement rate keeps up the present rate of improvement it is reliably learnt that Government hope to retreive the position in the matter of rice-stocks in the province before long and the possibility of restoring the 2 oz. cut in the rice ration recently introduced in the province by the first week of July is not altogether ruled out.

A Charter of Religious Freedom

June 2, the date on which the Madras Temple Entry (Authorization) Act came into effect, must be regarded as a red-letter day in the annals of the province. On that day Harijans and other hitherto excluded classes among the Hindus of Madras, for whose benefit the enactment was pr marily designed, have acquired the legal right to enter into all places of public worship in the province. The enactment of the legislation amounts to a charter of religious freedom for these classes. For, no longer does the right of permitting certain categories if Hindus to enter certain temples vest in the temple trustees concerned nor is the grant of such permission dependent on the consent of the general public of the locality. The right becomes an inherent one and can be freely and unrestrictedly exercised by Harijans or other excluded classes. The impression in some parts of North India and elsewhere is that South India is a sort of citadel of Hindu religious orthodoxy and that the rigidity of the caste system deprives important sections of the Hindu community of some fundamental civic rights. Absence of freedom to enter into and worship in temples is an instance of this inflexible rigidity that is generally mentioned in support of the impression. The Temple Entry (Authorization) Act formally removes a long-standing ban, and enthrones the principle that in the matter of communing with God distinctions based on caste are neither justified nor warranted nor necessary.

Concessions to Communist Detenus

Attention may be drawn to the various concessions that the Government of Madras have decided to extend to the Communist prisoners under detention in the various jails in the presidency. With the detention of large number of Communists under the Pub'ic Safety Ordinance and the Public Safety Act which replaced it, this question of their treatment has received prominence in a section of the press. The press note issued in this connection emphasizes the consideration that no discrimination is being made between Congress political prisoners and Communist detenus and that the latter enjoy almost all the privileges and advantages which the former did. Special mention may be made of the Government's decision to grant allowances to the families of the detenus, who have applied for them, with effect from the date of their detention and that these allowances range from Rs. 25 to Rs. 150. The press note points out that Communist detenus have also been permitted analogous facilities in the matter of securing legal advice as Congress prisoners. On the whole, the concessions allowed to the detenus make an impressive list and should be an effective answer to captious criticisms about discrimination in the Communist press.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Handloom Cloth Control Order

The promulgation of the Madras Handloom Cloth Production (Control) Order, 1947, has been criticised in the local press as a dictatorial Act on the ground that it gives powers to the Provincial Textile Commissioner to take unilateral action and makes the weavers slaves without the semblance of freedom of choice or action. The Government would like the public to know why the order was issued and what action is proposed to be taken under it.

As the quantities of handloom cloth to be exported from Madras province to Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and other countries outside India are fixed by the Central Government periodically and the Madras Government also has fixed the quota for exports of handloom cloth to other provinces within India, only a limited quantity of such cloth can be exported from this province. The master weavers, handloom factories and independent weavers were all producing exportable varieties much in excess of the quota, leading to accumulation of large stocks with exporters, cessation of purchases from producers and consequent suspension of work and temporary unemployment among weavers. Accumulation of exportable varieties led to smuggling of such cloth into

contiguous Provinces and States and to abuse of permits granted to exporters. Frequently speculative buying by exporters resulted in increase in prices to unprecedented levels not only of exportable varieties but also of cloth produced for local consumption. There were also complaints that numerous handloom factories in Malabar were producing only exportable varieties with a view to earn large profits, even though they were in a position to produce utility varieties. The Control Order has, therefore, been promulgated to assist in regulating the production of varieties of handloom cloth, which are intended solely or mainly for areas outside the province, so that varieties suitable for consumers in this Province may become available.

Executive instructions were issued some time back by the Provincial Textile Commissioner restricting the production of exportable varieties on certain types of looms and directing the production of larger quantities of women's white sarees of which there is an acute shortage. There has been no protest at all against these orders and they will now be placed on a statutory basis under the new Madras Handloom Cloth Production (Control) Order.

The power given under the Order will not be exercised except in public interests. There is no proposal for the standardization or rationalization of handloom cloth. The weavers will be free to use their skill and produce the designs and varieties fit for local consumption.

The powers taken under the Order are not new. Under clause 11 of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1945, the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has powers to issue directions to a producer of handloom cloth "regarding the classes of specifications of cloth and the maximum or minimum quantities thereof, which he shall or shall not manufacture during such periods as may be specified in the directions and producer shall comply with all such directions." The Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has not exercised these powers so far in respect of handloom cloth. It is, in every way, desirable that the Provincial Textile Commissioner who is in close touch with the handloom industry in the Province should have these powers rather than the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, who does not know the local conditions.

Government wish to make it clear once again that they do not propose to interfere with individual weavers or producers. They will take action only to limit the production of exportable varieties up to the export quota sanctioned, in the interests of the consumers in this Province.

[19th May]

Rice Ration Cut

In view of the considerable decline in procurement and of the remote prospects of imports of any appreciable quantities of foodgrains during the remaining period of the current Khariff year, the Government have examined the question whether it will be possible to maintain a 12 ounce rice ration or even a 12-ounce overall ration of foodgrains up to the end of October 1947. On 1st April 1947, the stocks of rice were only 282,000 tons and of millets 16,200 tons. There has been a progressive decline in procurement and it is estimated that if procurment proceeds at the present slow pace, not more than 853,600 tons of rice and 79,000 tons of millets can be procured before the end of October next. The quantities of rice and millets expected to be received from other Provinces, States and overseas during the rest of the Khariff year are 72,515 tons and 13,000 tons, respectively. The Government of India have made it clear that they are not in a position to give any further substantial assistance to this Province and that this Province should rely chiefly on its own resources in the coming months. The minimum requirements for consumption on the basis of 12-ounce ration, for the period from April to October 1947, are estimated at 1,260,000 tons of rice and 116,200 tons of millets. In order to ensure that rationing does not break down during the lean months of November and December 1947, it is necessary to keep buffer stocks of 250,000 tons of rice and 16,000 tons of millets at the end of October. Adding all these items, the result is there will be an uncovered deficit of over 300,000 tons of rice and 23,000 tons of millets.

The Government see no way of making up this shortage of over 323,000 tons of rice and millets other than that of suitably reducing the consumption. They have, therefore, regretfully decided to reduce the overall ration of foodgrains from 12 ounce to 10 ounces in all the statutorily and rurally rationed areas in the Province, as per details below :—

Rice eaters—10 ounces of rice or millets or maize or barley flour.

Millet eaters—2 ounces of rice and 8 ounce of millets, maize or barley flour.

Mixed diet eaters—4 ounces of rice and 6 ounces of millets, maize or barley flour.

This reduction has already been brought into effect from 11th May 1947 in the rural areas of Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur, North Arcot, Chittoor, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly, Coimbatore and South Kanara and it will be given effect to from 25th May 1947 in other districts except Malabar. As regards Malabar

district, a separate Press Note has been issued on 8th May 1947. It has since been found necessary to reduce the rice ration to 8 ounces in the non-municipal areas of all taluks in this district except Palghat and Wynaad. The ration for producers will remain at the old level of 1 pound.

It has been computed that it will not be possible to maintain even this 10-ounce ration unless the progress of procurement improves considerably. Production of rice this year is about 10 lakhs of tons more than last year and if only the producers respond as generously as they did last year and sell every ounce of their surplus to the Government procurement agents, it should be possible to manage without any further reduction and possibly restore the scale of 12 ounces to non-producers. The producers may still be in the expectation that the Government will offer increased prices or bonuses later on in the year and may be holding on to their stocks.

Any such idea should have been dispelled by the broadcast speech of the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad on the All-India Radio on 14th May 1947 where he emphasized the two cardinal points, viz., that there will be no further increase of prices or bonuses and that Madras must rely on its own resources. It is therefore up to the producers to rise to the occasion and save the Province from a breakdown in rationing and consequent suffering by offering all their surpluses for sale to the Government procurement agents immediately. The Government appeal to them in all earnestness to do so and avert a food crisis.

The Government are aware that the producers are suffering under several difficulties in carrying on their agricultural operations. The Government have under consideration a scheme for making manures easily and readily available to the producers at concession rates. The Government hope to be able to announce the details of the scheme shortly.

[23rd May]

Distribution of Samba

A quantity of 100 tons of samba wheat has been imported into this Province by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, from Hyderabad, and out of this quantity the districts of Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly, Malabar and South Kanara have been allotted 5 tons each. The balance has been allotted to Madras City. Samba wheat will be issued to the public within their rations on production of a medical certificate at intervals of not less than 4 days and subject to a maximum quantity of one rupee's worth at a time. In Madras City as well as in the mufassal it will be equitably distributed to all the ration shops to facilitate easy purchase by the consuming public.

[27th May]

Fruit Products Control

About nine months ago, the Government of India promulgated the Fruit Products Control Order in order to ensure that fruit products maintained a standard of quality as well as approximated to essential sanitary requirements. Provision was also made in that order for the disposal of fruit products manufactured prior to 1st July 1946, so that manufacturers might be spared unnecessary loss due to the promulgation of the order. The Government of India, however, received reports to the effect that though sufficient time had passed since the order was brought into force, fruit products which contravened the provisions of the Fruit Products Control Order are continuing to be sold by dealers. As they did not want to be particularly harsh, they allowed time till 15th May within which the dealers were asked to get their stocks stamped by the nearest Inspector of Fruit Products. This date has now passed and the Government desire to state that they have decided to enforce the order very rigidly in future.

[28th May]

Transport of Rice

The Government have revised the procedure in regard to the transport of rice for personal consumption. According to the procedure till now in force, the consignor has to surrender the permit to the stationmaster at the time of booking. The stationmaster sends back the permit to the issuing officer with particulars of invoice number, quantity booked, etc., duly furnished. This procedure has given rise to difficulties when the transport is partly by rail and partly by road. The road movement is left uncovered by a permit when once the consignor surrenders the permit to the station master.

The procedure was, therefore, examined by the Board of Revenue and has now been suitably revised. According to the revised procedure, the consignor will present the permit at the despatching station at the time of booking. The stationmaster should return the permit to the party after verification and after noting down the invoice Number and other particulars. He should also send a copy of his endorsement on the permit

to the permit issuing officer for information. The party will then utilise the permit to cover the road movement. He should ultimately surrender the permit to the Rationing Officer or the Village Munsif of the place which is the final destination of the consignment.

[29th May]

Cost of Living Index

During the week ended 24th May 1947, the index number of cost of living for working clases in Madras City remained stationary at 268.

[29th May]

10 oz Rice Ration in Malabar

The Collector of Malabar passed orders on May 29 increasing the rice ration from 8 ounces to 10 ounces throughout the district with effect from June 8.

Costly Cloth excluded from Rationing

In consultation with the Price Committee, the Provincial Textile Commissioner has decided to exempt certain costly varieties of imported cloth from being rationed.

The following are some of the varieties so excluded:—

Black Cotton Cambrics at Rs. 3-3-6 per yard; Black Satin at Rs. 2-12-10 per yard; Dyed Cotton Gaberdine at Rs. 7-13-7 per yard; White Pique Standard at Rs. 6-4-5 per yard; Coloured Woollen Pyjama Striped poplin at Rs. 4-7-0 per yard; Dyed Cotton Coating at Rs. 5-2-11 per yard; Printed mercerised Poplin at Rs. 4-4-6 per yard; Fine bordered Austria-umbrella Cloth at Rs. 3-5-5 per yard; Plain Austria-umbrella Cloth at Rs. 2-10-1 per yard; Clydella 27 inches cream at Rs. 3-6-6 per yard; Clydella 36 inches at Rs. 4-2-0 per yard; Vieyella cream 36 inches at Rs. 5-4-2 per yard; Vieyella mixed 31 inches at Rs. 5-9-1 per yard; Vieyella 27 inches at Rs. 4-13-7 per yard; Novelty fabrics ranging from Rs. 4-1-4 to Rs. 6-1-10 per yard; White dyed "Winceyett" at Rs. 3-0-2 per yard; Dyed shirting ranging from Rs. 3-0-2 to Rs. 4-9-0 per yard.

Forthcoming World Food Conference

The 34-nation emergency cereals conference due to met in Europe in July under the joint sponsorship of the International Emergency Food Council and the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation may be held in London, Paris or Rome, rather than in Geneva.

On of the chief aims of the meeting is to publicize the gravity of the continuing world food crisis. The British and American food administration in Germany, Japan and Korea will be "on trial" at the conference.

Madras against Removal of Textile Control

When his attention was drawn to a New Delhi report that the Government of India are actively considering the question of removing Textile controls, Mr. H. Sitarama Reddy, Minister for Industries, said that the removal of control at this stage would hit Madras hard and, although some of the other Provincial Governments might have favoured the move, the Madras Government had also placed their point of view before the Central Government which, he hoped, would receive its due weight before final decision was taken by the Centre one way or the other.

Facilities for Detenus

As the detention of Communists in the Province whose activities were prejudicial to the public safety or the maintenance of public order has come in for a certain amount of criticism on the ground that conditions of detention in jail have been unsatisfactory and that they compare unfavourably with the conditions of Congress detenus in jail in past years, the Government desire to make public the fact that the following amenities and facilities have now been granted to these detenus:—

The system of locking them up at nights has been given up.

Their ration allowance has been raised from Re. 0-12-6 to Rs. 1-11-0 for vegetarians and Rs. 2-2-0 for non-vegetarians.

A full time medical officer has been appointed to attend on them urgently on the spot. Cases calling for special treatment are immediately sent to other hospitals. The District Medical Officer of the place visits them periodically and reports on their health.

They have been allowed suitable furniture, with lights for reading upto 10 p.m.

Clothing, bedding and toilet articles have been ordered to be supplied to them as in the case of Congress detenus previously.

They have been allowed to write two and receive eight letters a week and in cases of absolute necessity to send out two more letters. They have been allowed privileges in the matter of interviews as in the case of Congress detenus.

(Continued on page 14)

Development

Working of Cattle-pounds

Government have reviewed the working of cattle-pounds in the Province for the triennium ended with 31st March 1946.

The publication of the Administrative Report for the last triennium which ended with 31st March 1943, was suspended owing to war. At the end of the present triennium there were in all 8,633 cattle-pounds as against 8,663 at the end of the triennium which concluded with 31st March 1940.

There was an increase under receipts during the present triennium and a decrease under charges. The increase under receipts were marked in the districts of West Godavari, Kistna, Nellore, Bellary, Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Salem, South Kanara and Malabar.

Under expenditure there was a large decrease in the districts of West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore and Bellary, while there was an appreciable increase in the districts of Chingleput, Tanjore, Trichinopoly and South Kanara.

The actual receipts and charges (direct) during the period under report amounted to Rs. 11·10 lakhs and Rs. 7·00 lakhs as against Rs. 9·16 lakhs and Rs. 7·75 lakhs respectively during the triennium which ended with March 1940.

[23rd May]

Electric Power for Agriculture

The Government consider that electric power can play a great part in the development and in raising the efficiency of agriculture, that electrical energy should be made available for ryots in areas where it can easily be extended and that the ryots should be given facilities for securing the necessary electrical materials like motors, switches, starters, etc. In this view of the matter the Government have examined the proposal of the Director of Agriculture for the establishment of a Central Agricultural Engineering Store and Servicing Centre in Madras for storing and distributing electrical as well as other engineering equipment required for agricultural purposes and have decided that, as an experiment to start with, the Agricultural Department should stock electrical pumps and supply them to agricultusists in areas where there is great demand. The ordinary ryot who needs an electric pump will thus be enabled to get requirement through departmental assistance which he cannot do if he were to get it in competition with others in the open market.

It is however considered necessary that there should be a combined effort on the part of the Electricity and Agricultural Departments for giving maximum assistance to ryots in the use of electricity for irrigation and other agricultural purposes. The Government are considering the establishment of a Central Agricultural Engineering Store and Servicing Centre in Madras as recommended by the Director of Agriculture to implement the above policy.

A Trade Dispute

A trade dispute arose between the workers and management of the Nellimerla Jute Mills Co., Ltd., Nellimerla. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the Government referred the dispute to the District and Sessions Judge, Vizagapatam, for adjudication. The adjudicator has after enquiry submitted his report. The following are the recommendations of the adjudicator :—

(1) It is the duty of the machine sewers (men) to assist hand sewers (women) in lifting bundles of bags whether light or heavy. The management should provide aprons made of gunny bags to the machine sewers, with strings long enough to tie them up properly either round the shoulders or round the waist. There nust be a receptacle attached to the table of the machine sewer or at other suitable place in which the tally card can be thrown and from which it can be readily removed. The management should bring in a scheme to have special coolies to assist such of the hand sewers as might be old and infirm or pregnant.

(2) The closing of sections on 22nd October 1946 or of the whole mill on 11th November 1946 was justified but the closing of hessian and twist departments on 20th November 1946 was not justified. The management will pay to the workers in the hessian and twist departments the wages they would have ordinarily earned during the period of closure from 20th November 1946.

The Government accept the recommendations of the adjudicator.

[20th May]

Food Control Prosecutions

There were about 297 prosecutions launched in the various magisterial courts of the Province in respect of offences against the Foodgrains

Control Order and Rationing Regulations, during the fortnight ending 30th April 1947. About 115 cases have resulted in convictions and sentences.

Other cases of infringement of the Foodgrains Control Order and Rationing Regulations are *subjudice* and the results are awaited.

[20th May]

Revised Newsprint Control Order

The revised Control Order embodying the relaxations announced in the Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies of the Government of India on the 14th February 1947 has been republished in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 29th April 1947. The Order has come into force from the 3rd April 1947. Briefly, it prescribes the submission of returns of acquisition, consumption and stocks of newsprint by importers of newsprint, proprietors of newspapers and other persons carrying on any undertaking involving the sale, storage or distribution of newsprint, removes the restriction on the starting of new newspapers published at intervals of not more than a month and restricts the consumption of newsprint to the printing of newspapers only. It also prescribes a maximum and minimum price for newspapers of different sizes.

[26th May]

Adjudicator's Recommendations

There was a dispute between the workers and management of the Vizagapatam Sugars and Refinery, Limited, Anakapalli. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the dispute was referred to the District and Sessions Judge, Vizagapatam, for adjudication. The adjudicator has submitted his report after enquiry and the following are his recommendations :—

1. No increase in the basic wage is necessary but regular scales with increments for each class of workers should be introduced immediately.

2. Dearness allowance should be raised to Rs. 16 per mensem with retrospective effect from 1st November 1946.

3. Some difference in pay and provision of certain amenities are necessary for Biharis who come from a long distance, but the management should advertise for all classes of local skilled workers and replace Biharis with local men as far as possible. When skilled local men are not available, the latter should be trained immediately.

4. No case is made out for the payment of bonus.

5. The dismissal of Suryanarayana Rao was justified. The management may reconsider the case of S. Narayana, and if possible, re-employ him. None of the other workers is entitled for re-employment.

6. No change in the existing leave rules is necessary; but the management should bring to the notice of the workers the existing leave rules so that the workers may take full advantage of them.

[28th May]

Revenue

Revenue and Expenditure

The following is on the progress of Revenue and Expenditure on Revenue Account to the end of February 1947 :—

According to the Revised Budget for 1946–47 the revenue receipts amount to Rs. 5,742·92 lakhs. Revenue accounts to the end of February 1947 stand at Rs. 3,762 35 lakhs as against Rs. 3,679 43 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The expenditure on revenue account to the end of February 1947, totals Rs. 3,329 05 lakhs as against Rs. 2,650·99 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The total revenue realised to the end of February 1947 shows an increase of Rs. 82 92 lakhs as compared with the revenue for the corresponding period of 1945–46. The increase is the net effect of increases totalling Rs. 310·41 lakhs and decreases totalling Rs. 227 49 lakhs.

The increase in revenue related, among others, to items such as Land Revenue, Stamps, Forest, Registration, receipts under Motor Vehicles Act, Education and Co-operation. The decrease was with reference to items such as, among others, Provincial Excise, Irrigation, Administration of Justice and Industries.

The total expenditure on revenue account to the end of February 1947 shows an increase of Rs. 678 06 lakhs as compared with the expenditure for the corresponding period of the previous financial year. One of the reasons for the increase is the payment of a month's salary as bonus, subject to a minimum of Rs. 20 and a maximum of Rs. 150, to all non-gazetted Government servants during December 1946.

[20th May]

Transport

Dispute in Motor Transport Services

In February 1947, the Government appointed Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as a Court of Enquiry to go into all problems connected with the working conditions of labour in the motor transport services, etc., in the Province. As the final report of the Court of Enquiry was likely to be delayed in view of the elaborate enquiries which the Court had to undertake, the Government considered that the question of interim relief should be referred for adjudication and accordingly referred that issue to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication. After enquiry the adjudicator has made the following recommendations :—

(1) Workers whose salary and dearness allowance do not exceed Rs. 50 per mensem should be paid an interim relief of Rs. 7–8–0.

(2) Workers whose salary and dearness allowance exceed Rs. 50 per mensem should be paid an interim relief of Rs. 5 per mensem.

(3) Workers whose salary and dearness allowance falls between Rs. 47–8–0 and Rs. 50 should be paid such an amount of interim relief as may be necessary to make up a total of Rs. 55.

Batta should not be included in arriving at the total income for which interim relief is recommended. The interim relief should be paid with effect from 1st April 1947.

The Government accept the recommendations of the adjudicator. [20th May]

Regional Transport Authorities

The Government have directed that the Regional Transport Authorities in districts excluding the Madras City should be reconstituted with the District Magistrate as Chairman and the District Superintendent of Police, the President of the District Board and one non-official person to be nominated by the Government as the members. This is as a result of the consideration they have given to various criticisms offered and representations made to them on the existing organisation of the Regional Transport Authorities in the province and the constitution of these authorities. They have decided to abolish the prevailing zonal system under which the jurisdiction of the Regional Transport Authorities extends over more than one district and to revert to the system of road traffic boards renamed as Regional Transport Authorities, for each district to be constituted as mentioned above, which were in force until November 1945. The existing Regional Transport Officer will be the Secretary of all the Regional Transport Authorities of the districts within his jurisdiction. He will have no right to vote but can take part at the discussions and the meetings of the Board. He will act as the Executive Officer of the Regional Transport Authorities and will carry out their orders.

[23rd May]

Miscellaneous

Anti-malarial Measure

The Government have approved the proposal to pave with cement concrete slabs the sides of the Raya channel within the Hospet Municipal limits, as a permanent anti-malarial measure, at an estimated cost of Rs. 68,400.

[17th May]

Elections to Municipal Councils

It has been decided to hold elections to municipal councils in the months of June and July 1947. The following is the tentative programme of dates:—

Publication of election notice ..	26–6–1947
Receipt of nominations ..	7–7–1947 8–7–1947 9–7–1947
Scrutiny of nominations ..	10–7–1947
Publication of valid nominations, if no appeal	14–7–1947
In the event of appeal ..	18–7–1947
Poll	31–7–1947
Counting of votes	1–8–1947

The dates may be varied slightly by the Inspector of Local Boards in respect of a few municipalities where local circumstances require it.

[17th May]

Hostel for School of Indian Medicine

The Government have sanctioned the construction of additional hostel buildings in the School of Indian Medicine, Kilpauk, Madras and have approved an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 2·5 lakhs for the purpose.

[17th May]

Relief Grant to Tenali

Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,620 towards the relief of distress caused by the fire accident on 25th April 1947 in Tenali taluk, Guntur district.

[19th May]

Bill to Regulate Profession of Dentistry

The Government of India propose to introduce in the Indian Legislative Assembly a Bill to regulate the profession of Dentistry and for that purpose to constitute Dental Councils. Opinions on the Bill, the text of which has already appeared on pages 305—317 of Part III-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of 13th May 1947, may be submitted by the 31st July 1947 through the Provincial Government only. The following statement of Objects and Reasons appended to a draft Bill gives an indication of the scope of the proposed Legislation :—

Statement of Objects and Reasons

Except in Bengal, where there is a Provincial Dental Council established under a Provincial Act, there is no legal provision for the regulation of the education and training of dental practitioners or for the registration of qualified persons. There is also no restriction on the practice of dentistry by persons without scientific training. It is well known that the practice of dentistry by untrained or inadequately trained persons may constitute a danger to the patient. It is accordingly proposed to constitute an Indian Dental Council, which will be empowered to lay down minimum standards of training, and Provincial Councils, which will maintain registers of persons entitled to practise dentistry. The Indian Dental Council will also be authorized to enter into agreements with corresponding authorities in other countries for the reciprocal recognition of qualifications.

For the purposes of the preparation of the first register persons holding certain specified qualifications and persons who do not hold such qualifications but have practised dentistry for a minimum period of two years will be entitled to registration. Thereafter entry to the profession will be restricted to persons who have undergone a minimum standard of training.

As the Indian Dental Council will have the responsibility of laying down standards of education and training, only dentists who have undergone such training and possess recognized qualifications will be entitled to be elected to the Council.

In order that simple dental aid may be made available to the people on as wide a basis as possible, provision is made for the registration of dental hygienists who will be entitled to carry out simple extractions and perform minor dental work. Registered medical practitioners will be entitled to practise dentistry.

The existing Bengal Dental Council will perform the functions of a Provincial Dental Council under this Act and persons registered under the Bengal Dental Act will be entitled to registration without payment of registration fee.

In view of the provisions of section 119 of the Government of India Act, 1935, persons who are not British subjects of Indian domicile and who are residents in British India and hold specified dental qualifications, will be admitted to the first register but thereafter such persons will be entitled to registration only if their qualifications have been recognized by the Indian Dental Council in pursuance of a reciprocity agreement. The Indian Dental Council will be debarred from entering into a reciprocity agreement unless by the law and practice of the foreign country Indians are permitted to enter and practise dentistry in that country. [20th May]

Discrimination against Harijan Students

The Government of Madras have issued a warning to all concerned that they would not hesitate to take stern action, disciplinary or otherwise, against such educational institutions or individuals connected with them as may be guilty of discrimination of whatever type against Harijans. The warning has been issued with reference to complaints that in certain educational institutions Harijan students are treated badly and the teachers use language of the kind which tends to discourage them in their studies. It is also understood that admission to the hostels attached to some educational institutions is not open to Harijans and that even in the hostels to which they are admitted they are not given the same treatment as that accorded to the candidates belonging to other communities.

Attention is drawn in this connexion to the fact that discriminatory treatment against Harijans

will become a cognizable offence under the Madras Civil Disabilities Removal (Amendment) Bill, 1947, when it is passed into law.

The Director of Public Instruction has been asked to issue necessary instructions to inspecting officers in this matter and when cases of discriminatory treatment are established and when mere warnings are not likely to have the desired effect, teachers against whom specific allegations are proved should be punished severely, and in the case of institutions, appreciable reduction in the grants-in-aid paid to them should be effected.

[21st May]

Bellary Sanatorium for Civilians

Tuberculosis is one of the scourges that has to be successfully combated in this province. It has wrought extensive havoc in the past and Government have been considering ways and means of arresting its spread. In this connexion the need has been felt for more hospital accommodation for the treatment of Tuberculosis cases. There is a Sanatorium in Bellary under the control of the Jail Department which is used exclusively for the treatment of prisoners suffering from Tuberculosis. Though its bed strength is 175 the actual number of in-patients has not at any time exceeded 82. A suggestion was made that the Sanatorium should be thrown open to civilian patients also. Government have accepted the suggestion and the Sanatorium is being transferred to the Medical Department. The bed strength has also been increased to 200.

[21st May]

Interest on Loans to Local Bodies

Government have decided that the rate of interest to be charged on ordinary loans to local bodies like the Presidency Corporations, District and other Local Fund Committees and the mufussal municipalities be finally fixed at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent per annum and that for loans to local bodies to cover deficits, the rate should be $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum.

The rates of interest on loans and advances sanctioned by the Government in 1947–48 to Co-operative Loans and Sales Societies for the construction of godowns or other Co-operative Societies and loans to Land Mortgage Banks shall be $3\frac{1}{4}$ and 4 per cent per annum. Advances to cultivators under the Agriculturists Loans Act of 1935 will be at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and advances under the Special Loans to the State Aided Industries Act will be 5 per cent. Loans to co-operative societies and individuals under the requisition of house-sites for communities eligible for help by the Labour Department will be $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The penal interest in all overdue instalments and interest will remain at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum.

[22nd May]

Remission Sanctioned

The Government have sanctioned the proposal of the Collector of Bellary for the remission of 25 per cent dry assessment for fasli 1356 in the villages of Pachanur and Halaharivi in Alur taluk of Bellary district, where the outturn of the crop was $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas and below. The concession will apply also to unobjectionable cases of Sivoijama, minor inam lands charged without rent or jodi equal to or more than the full assessment and lands assigned temporarily.

[30th May]

Fire Relief

The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2,448 towards the relief of distress caused by the fire accident in Uddandapuram village, Sarvasiddhi taluk, Vizagapatam district, on 23rd April 1947.

The Government have also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,000 towards the relief of distress caused by the fire accident on 24th April 1947 in Kokkirapalli village, Sarvasiddhi taluk, Vizagapatam district.

[30th May]

Poster Design for U.N.O.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is organizing a "Poster of the Year" competition to encourage professional artists in all member countries to submit designs for a poster portraying some aspect of the aims and principles of the United Nations as outlined in the United Nations Charter. The best poster submitted will be adopted by the United Nations for official use.

Three posters selected from each participating country will be forwarded to the headquarters of the United Nations where an International Committee will be formed to make the final awards. The prizes will be $1,500 for the first prize, $1,000 for the second prize, $500 for the third prize and $100 for each of ten prizes for honourable mention.

The winning poster is to be issued during the second session of the General Assembly in September 1947 and selected entries are to reach Lake Success (New York) before July 1, 1947. Those interested may obtain full particulars from the Art in Industry Institute.

[30th May]

Control of Yellow Cholam

It has been reported in certain local dailies that the Government have cancelled their previous notification relating to the control over the distribution of yellow cholam. As this implies that all restrictions on the purchase and sale of yellow cholam have been removed, the Government wish to make it clear that the orders relating to the procurement, distribution and price control still remain in force for yellow cholam. The order recently issued in G.O. Ms. No. 465, Food, dated 18th April 1947, merely permits the delivery of the consignments of yellow cholam or its products imported into this Province without the countersignatures of the Collectors on the Railway receipts or shipping documents and the disposal of the consignments so imported without the written consent of the Collectors.

[30th May]

Engineering Courses in Karachi

The Government of Sind have decided to continue the "Two-year Overseer's Course" started at the N.E.D. Engineering College, Karachi, and the I.C.E. Institute, Sukkur, for training candidates for posts of overseers in the Sind Public Works Department, for another term of two years ending 31st March 1949.

The admissions to this course will be restricted to *Muslims* only. If, however, the number of Sindhi Muslims is not up to the mark, non-Sindhi Muslims will be given preference, provided they give in writing that, after passing this course, they will serve in Sind Public Works Department, unless no post could be offered to them within a period of three months from the date of declaration of the result of the examination.

The successful candidates will be considered as qualified overseers and will be eligible for being appointed as such on the temporary establishment in the first instance, in the Sind Public Works Department on a starting pay of Rs. 105 in the grade of Rs. 60—5—120 (E.B.) 6—180 (E.B. 8—260.

Twenty (20) scholarships (each of Rs. 50 per mensem tenable at the N.E.D. Engineering College, Karachi, and of Rs. 30 per mensem tenable at the I.C.E. Institute, Sukkur) have been sanctioned for the duration of the full term of the course referred to above. The question of further increasing the number of scholarships is receiving attention of Government.

Applications are invited from the intending Muslim candidates who have passed at least the Matriculation Examination of the University of Bombay or any other recognized University or an equivalent examination and whose age on admittance in the above course does not exceed 26 years.

While applying, the following particulars should invariably be furnished :—

(i) Name, father's name and surname.

(ii) Native place.

(iii) Date of birth.

(iv) Educational qualifications and when each examination was passed. Total number of marks secured in the Matriculation Examination should be shown separately.

(v) Whether the candidate likes to join at Karachi or at Sukkur.

Muslim candidates should address their applications to the Chief Engineer in Sind, Post Box 328, Karachi-3 and non-Muslim candidates should apply direct to the Principal, N.E D Engineering College, Karachi, or the Principal, I.C.E. Institute, Sukkur. The applications of Muslim candidates must reach the Chief Engineer's office before the 10th June 1947.

Any attempt, direct or indirect, to influence any officer of the Public Works Department will disqualify the candidate concerned.

[29th May]

Breeding Bulls Provided

In view of the large demand for good breeding bulls in Madras City, the Director of Veterinary Services has submitted a scheme for the stationing of breeding bulls in the cattle depots of the Corporation of Madras. According to this scheme, suitable breeding bulls will be stationed by the Veterinary Department in the seven Corporation Cattle Depots in different Wards of the City and maintained at Government cost. The services of these bulls will be made available to the public on payment of the usual service fee. The bulls will be supplied from Government farms as and when they become available. They will be inspected periodically by the officers of the Veterinary Department and will be withdrawn in case they are not properly looked after by the Corporation authorities or are not performing a reasonable number of services. The maintenance charges of the bulls will be paid to the Corporation with reference to the number of bulls actually maintained at the depots each year. The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, has agreed to the proposal. He has also agreed to construct sheds in the concerned cattle depots for housing the bulls separately and to appoint an attendant at each of these depots exclusively to look after the bull. The Government approve the scheme and sanction it for a period of three years in the first instance.

Sanction is accorded in this connexion to an expenditure of Rs. 3,200.

The Ban on Movement of Chillies

The Government have removed the ban on the movement of chillies and chilli products from the Madras Province to any place in India. No permits will therefore be necessary for such movements hereafter.

The ban on the export of chillies and chilly products to places outside India however continues.

[31st May]

The Madras Temple Entry Act

The Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Act, 1947 (sections 2 to 11) is coming into force on 2nd June 1947 and a notification to that effect has already appeared in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 28th May 1947. Under the provisions of this Act, unlike the earlier Act of 1939, the right of the excluded classes to enter temples and offer worship is not dependent upon any resolution of the trustees and the consent of the Government being obtained thereto or upon the trustees being of opinion that the worshipping public are not generally opposed to the entry of Harijans. The Act confers an absolute right of worship which does not depend upon the consent of any authority. Government have already appointed a committee to advise them in regard to the framing of rules and regulations under the Act. But the right of entry into and worship in temples conferred by the Act is not dependent on the framing of rules and regulations.

With effect from the 2nd June 1947, Harijans will have the same right to enter Hindu temples and offer worship in them in the same manner and to the same extent as Hindus in general have. The Act applies to every public temple in this Province and the Tirupati temple is no exception. In view, however, of an injunction having been recently issued by the High Court before the coming into force of the new Act, the Tirupati temple authorities are advised by the Government to take appropriate steps before the High Court to move for the discharge of the injunction recently issued.

[31st May]

Electricity Project Sanctioned

The Government have sanctioned an estimate of Rs. 26·40 lakhs for the advance construction instead of in 1951–53 of the Madura-Tirumangalam-Rajapalayam-Tenkasi 66 KV line with telephones and 3 sub-stations on this line in the Papanasam Hydro-Thermal Electric System. The Scheme is intended to meet the large demand for power that has arisen in the Tenkasi, Rajapalayam and Tirumangalam areas especially for agricultural and industrial requirements.

[31st May]

(*Continued from page* 7)

As regards books and periodicals they have been allowed the privileges given to "A" class prisoners and in addition they are free to get, subject to censorship, any book or periodical not proscribed or banned by Government.

They enjoy the same privileges in the matter of legal advice as Congress detenus did and have been granted special facilities in the matter of morning and evening walks as well as games.

Above all, those of the detenus who have families to maintain and have applied for family allowances, have been granted allowances ranging from a minimum of Rs. 25 (or less if they have applied for less) to a maximum of Rs. 150 a month according to the circumstances of each case from the date of their detention.

[31st May]

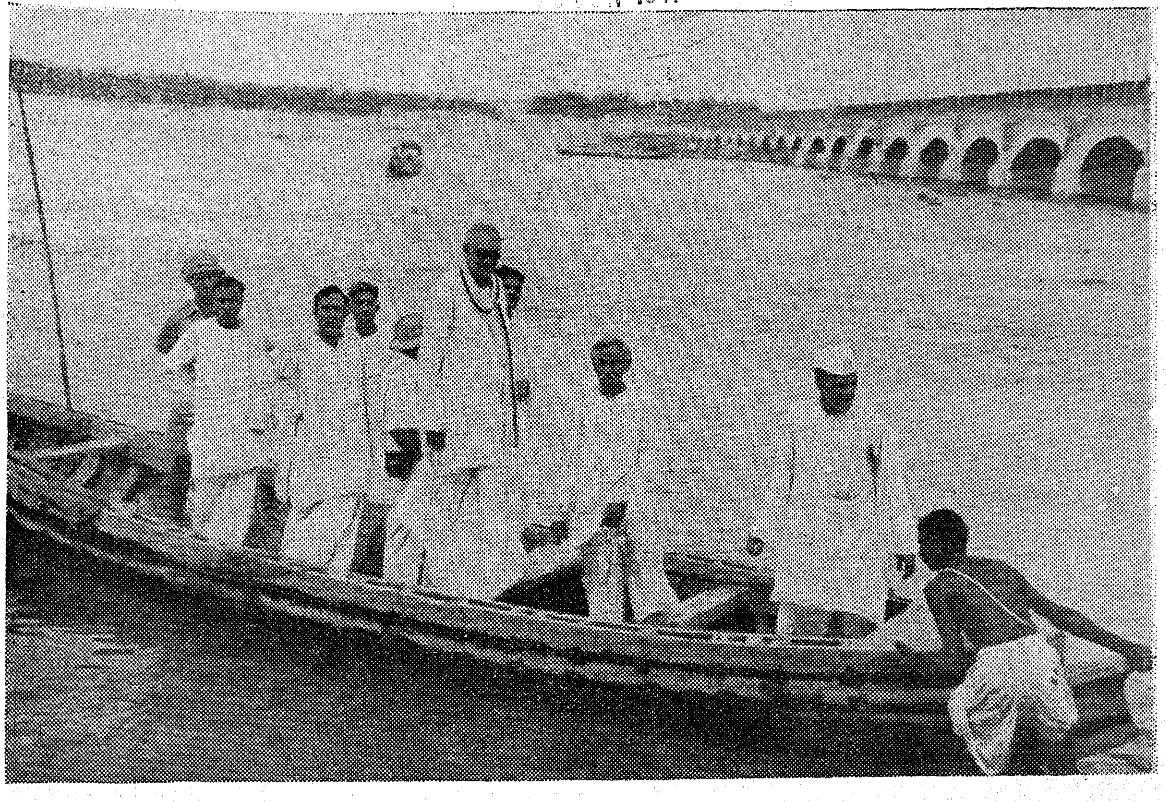
Reorganization of Textile Control

Mr. Sitarama Reddi Explains Plan

The Government's intention to appoint a committee to go into questions connected with yarn and cloth controls in the Province, was announced by the Hon'ble Mr. H. Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Industries, at a Press conference held on May 27.

The proposed committee would consider all questions relating to control regarding procurement and distribution of yarn and cloth, handloom wages, and export policy.

The Minister pointed out that no proposal for removal of cloth control was pending before



The Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao and party inspecting the Gannavaram Aqueduct (Vainatyam river) during his recent tour in Andhra.

the Government. He added, "So far as our province is concerned it would be very difficult for us if controls are removed. There is no question at present of giving up cloth rationing or of changing the method of distribution."

Referring to the position of hand-loom and mill cloth in our Province the Minister stated that it was the general rule that exports of hand-loom cloth were not permitted to other provinces. Export was permitted only to Ceylon, Malaya and Burma. He also said that except Bengal, Hyderabad and Mysore, the other provinces had not agreed to take our hand-loom cloth in exchange for mill cloth, due to the high prices of the former.

The total monthly requirement of cloth of Madras province at the rate of 10 yards per capita for its population of 53·35 millions was 29,639 bales (a bale containing about 1,500 yards). In lieu of this demand, 26,673 bales of handloom cloth and 8,966 bales of mill cloth were now available for the province, both from internal production and supplies from surplus areas.

The Minister then explained the scheme of the reorganisation of the Textile Control Department. The object of the Government was to facilitate quick disposal by the authorities in the districts of local complaints and grievances. Nearly all these could be redressed through the Village, Town, Taluk and District Committees. The Government would not ordinarily entertain any representations, unless the District Collector or the Provincial Textile Commissioner, as the case might be had first been moved in the matter.

Under the new scheme, the Collector or the Assistant Textile Commissioner, if so authorised by the Collector, is the licensing authority under all the control orders with the exception of Artificial silk, Khadi controls and licenses for retail depots of mills under the Madras Textile Mills Control Order, 1946. The excepted items shall be under the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

It is proposed to delegate licensing powers under the Cotton Textile (Raw Materials and Stores) Order, 1946, to the Collectors in respect of dealers

and consumers of dyes and chemicals, licensing powers in respect of importers and importers' distributors being, however, reserved in the hands of the Provincial Textile Commissioner. But until further orders, all representations relating to licences and permits under the Central Government's Control Order cited should be addressed to the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

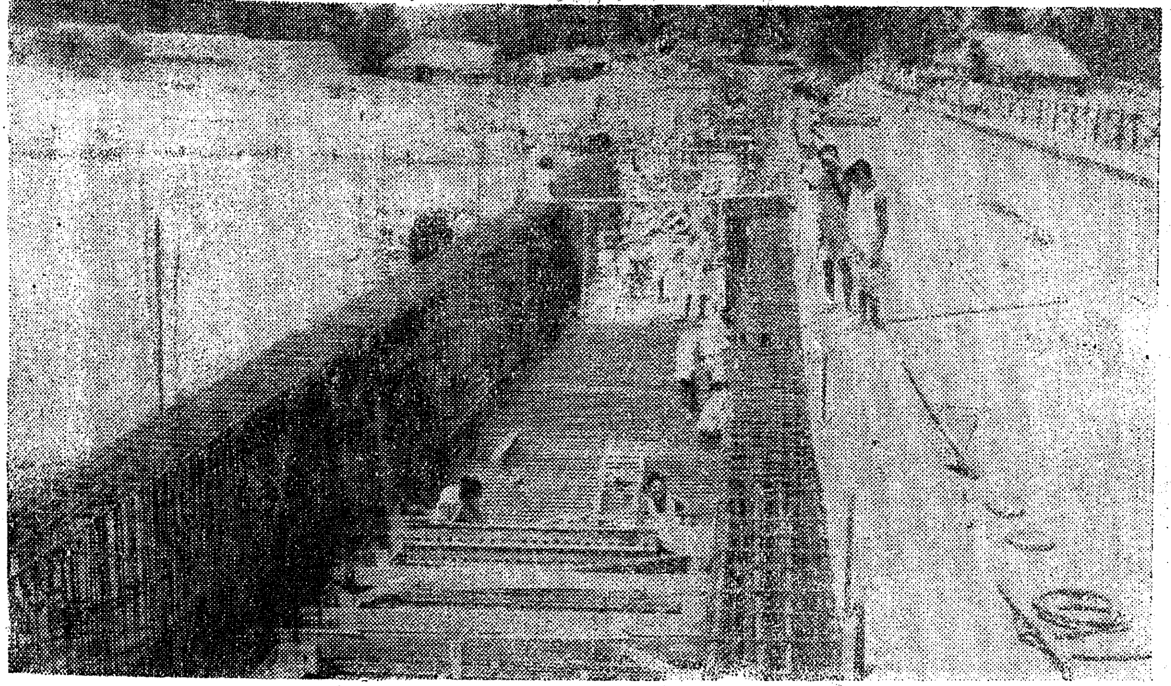
The distribution of cloth and yarn within the district is entirely a matter for the Collector and all representations in regard to it should be addressed to him accordingly, if the redress desired is not obtained or is not obtainable under the rules, through the local Committee.

Enforcement of Textile Control Measures.—The District Collector is the authority responsible for this except in regard to the measures in force for the control of mills. The Provincial Textile Commissioner is the authority responsible for the latter. Representations regarding control of mills should, therefore, be addressed to the Provincial Textile Commissioner and to the Collector in all other cases.

The Provincial Textile Commissioner is the authority to be addressed in regard to all matters connected with (1) Export of cotton textiles from the province, including export permits; (2) The Khadi scheme including the administration of the Madras Khadi Control Order, 1947; (3) Procurement of cloth and yarn from areas outside the Provinces; and (4) issue of permits for the despatch of cloth by post under the Cotton Textiles (Transmission by post) Prohibition Order, 1946, prolmulgated by the Central Government.

The Provincial Textile Commissioner should be addressed in regard to all matters not covered by the above analysis. The Provincial Textile Commissioner or the District Collector as the case may be, should accordingly be addressed in the first instance, with reference to the division of functions explained above.

The Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao speaking to a way side gathering at Pallankuru, Amalapuram. Seated on his left is the Hon'ble Sri Ramakrishna Raju, President of the Madras Legislative Council



A general view of the bridge now being constructed at Gannavaram—Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao visited this place during his recent tour in Andhra

University Education in South India

Need to Correlate Instruction with Country's needs

Education Minister's Broadcast

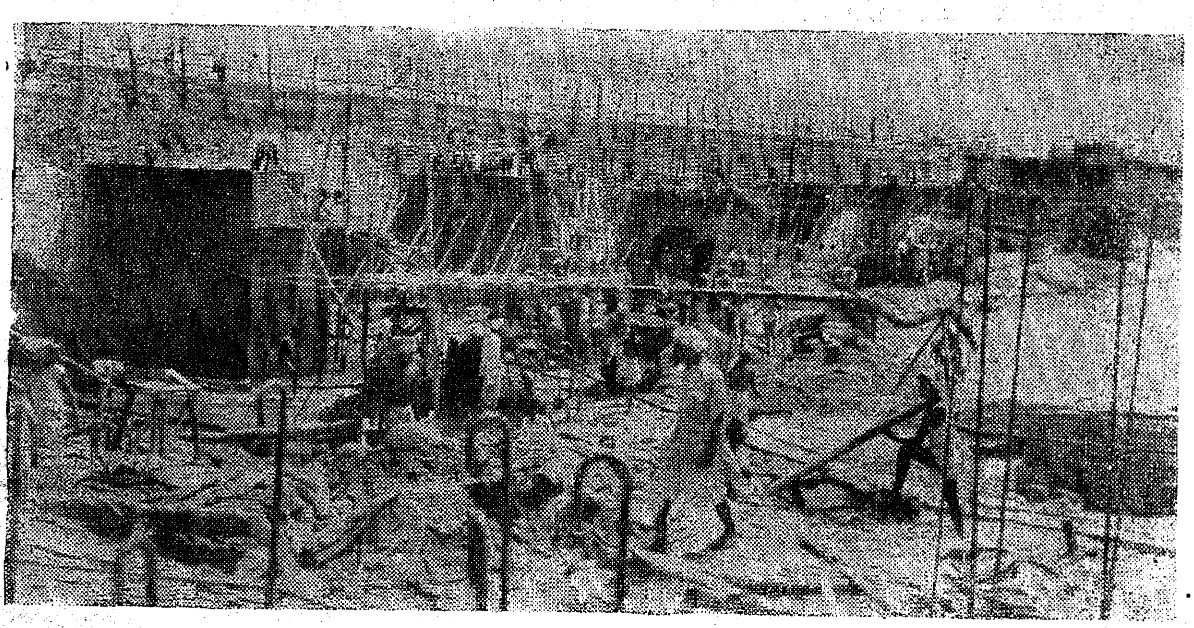
"The number of Universities has steadily grown in South India. What was only one University for the whole of South India, the Madras University, has developed to-day into as many as six Universities. The development of the new Universities has not resulted in reducing the numbers at the Madras University. Thus, while in 1916, before the inauguration of any of the new Universities, the number of undergraduates on the rolls of the University of Madras was 11,510, the number in 1946–47 in the Madras University alone is 29,631. It need not be added that the other Universities also are working in full strength. This only shows as to how in this country University education has covered rapid ground in the last few years. With this rapid growth, fresh problems have arisen in University education and it is no surprise that we find statements being made everywhere that University education requires reorganization.

The times also have changed. The spirit of the times to-day is very different from the spirit of the times a quarter of a century ago. In those days, people thought in terms of Western culture and they thought that the man who aped Western manners was a cultured man, but to-day with the dawn of Swaraj and Independence, the old ideology is giving place to a new one in which Indian culture, tradition and learning are bound to have greater respect. Besides, time was when only a few from the so-called advanced communities chose to go for University education but now with Democracy has come an yearning for knowledge amongst all classes of people. And so, it is natural that in these transitional times, our Universities should be having fresh problems to face. When people criticize certain aspects of our University education to-day, we need not be disheartened; for it only means that in a fast-growing age, as in the case of our other social and educational

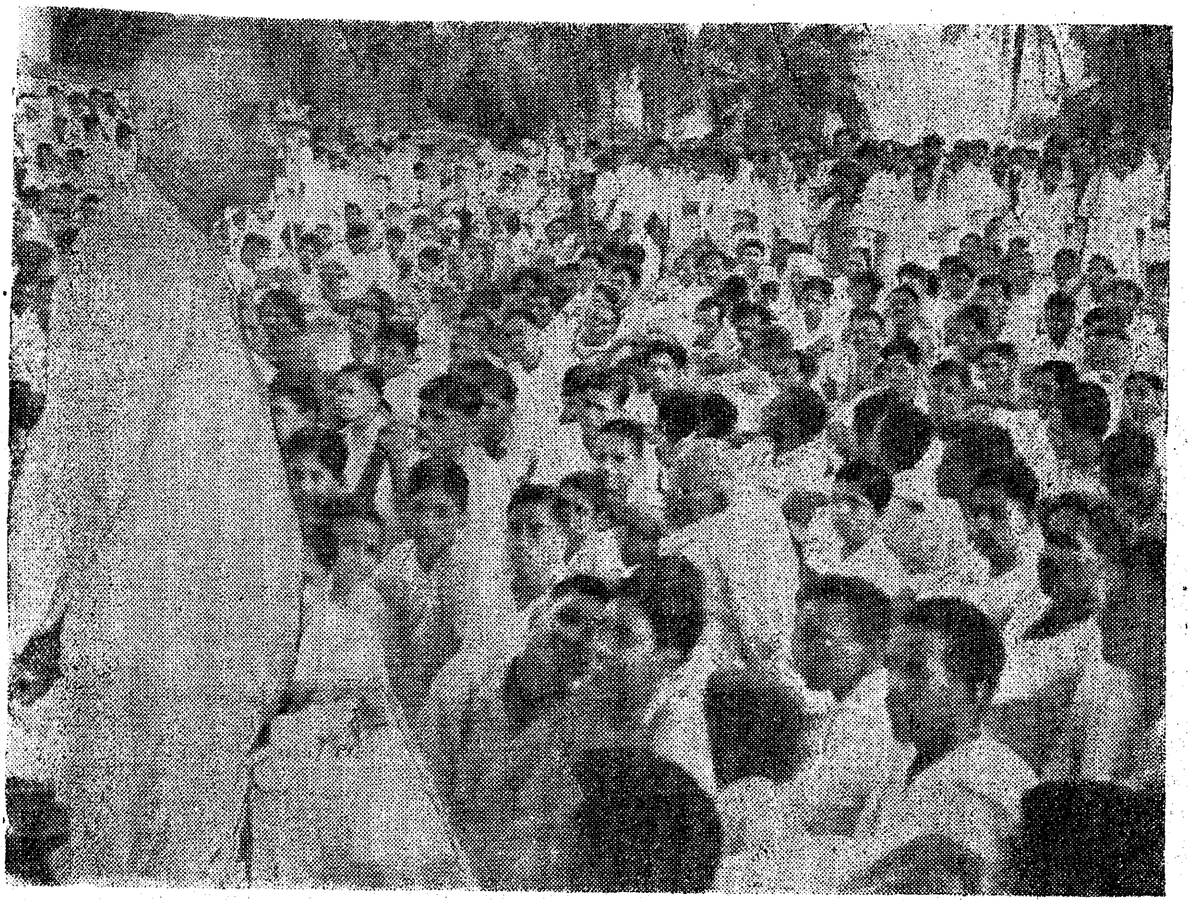
institutions, the Universities also require re-adjustment. They have served to the best of their ability in the past and they must be so moulded as to contribute their best towards the future.

At the outset, we must make it clear to our own minds as to what is the object of our University education. There are some who believe that the object of University education is merely the imparting of intellectual knowledge in the various spheres. There are others who believe that its object is to give a liberal education for such of those who come to its portals. There may be still others who think that it is an institution through which one can qualify himself for higher jobs and emoluments in Government service. While these may all be partly true and express certain aspects of University education, they lack a fundamental basic element. A mere intellectual education makes a man selfish. While it may equip him well to fight the battles of life, it makes him live for himself rather than for the community; but the characteristics of true education must be the making of a whole man and the training of his heart also. A man, while he should be enlightened, must use his enlightenment and learning to serve the community and the country to the best advantage. These are the characteristics of all true education. Our Universities like all real educational institutions, must produce men and women of character. That attitude of service and devotion to the country, of putting the country and the community first and ourselves second, must be more and more emphasized in our Universities as elsewhere.

All our Universities have grown in numbers especially in the last few years. As a result of these large numbers, the touch between the teachers and the taught has become very much less than before, with the consequent deterioration in discipline. It has also been said that a good number of those who seek and find admission for University classes now are not suited for University education, and so, in the long run, make for waste. The Government are earnestly considering this matter and are trying to find ways and means by which such of those who are unsuited to University studies may be diverted to other avocations. But unfortunately, this problem while it may be easy in many other countries, seems to present a peculiar difficulty in this country. Where there are no castes by birth and where there is a homogeneous community, weeding out becomes easy and no heart-burning is created. But in a country where certain communities by birth have been forced to be mere drawers of water and hewers of wood for thousands of years, it is very difficult for any Government to impose upon them the same stringent conditions for taking to University education which may be easily satisfied by other communities who have



Labourers are busy with the work of building the bridge at Gannavaram



During his recent tour in Andhra the Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao addressed a large number of meetings at which thousands of people were present. The picture here gives the front view of one such meeting at Tanuku, West Godavari

had an advantage over them for many centuries. Difficult of solution as these problems may be, we must face and solve them as best as we can.

One of the results of overcrowding in our colleges, has been a marked tendency towards inefficiency. When compared to a few decades ago, the Universities as well as the various colleges have had to provide a much greater variety of subjects than before. The result has been, that every college, in competition with others, has sought to provide as many courses of instruction as possible though they do not have the requisite funds to provide the necessary equipments for these many courses. Consequently, while many courses of instruction are available in all the colleges, their general efficiency has suffered. I have heard that even in America where large funds are available to the colleges and large endowments are being made for University education, colleges and Universities have set upon themselves the duty of specializing in certain subjects for which they may have some special advantages. The result has been that in those subjects in which they could specialize, they could achieve a high standard of efficiency. This, in its turn, has raised the general level of University education to a higher degree in those countries.

If we are also to have an equally high standard of University education in our own province, I should think action on these lines may be necessary. But this will not by any means be an easy thing to achieve. It will require a great deal of understanding, co-operation and sacrifice if we are to organize on this basis.

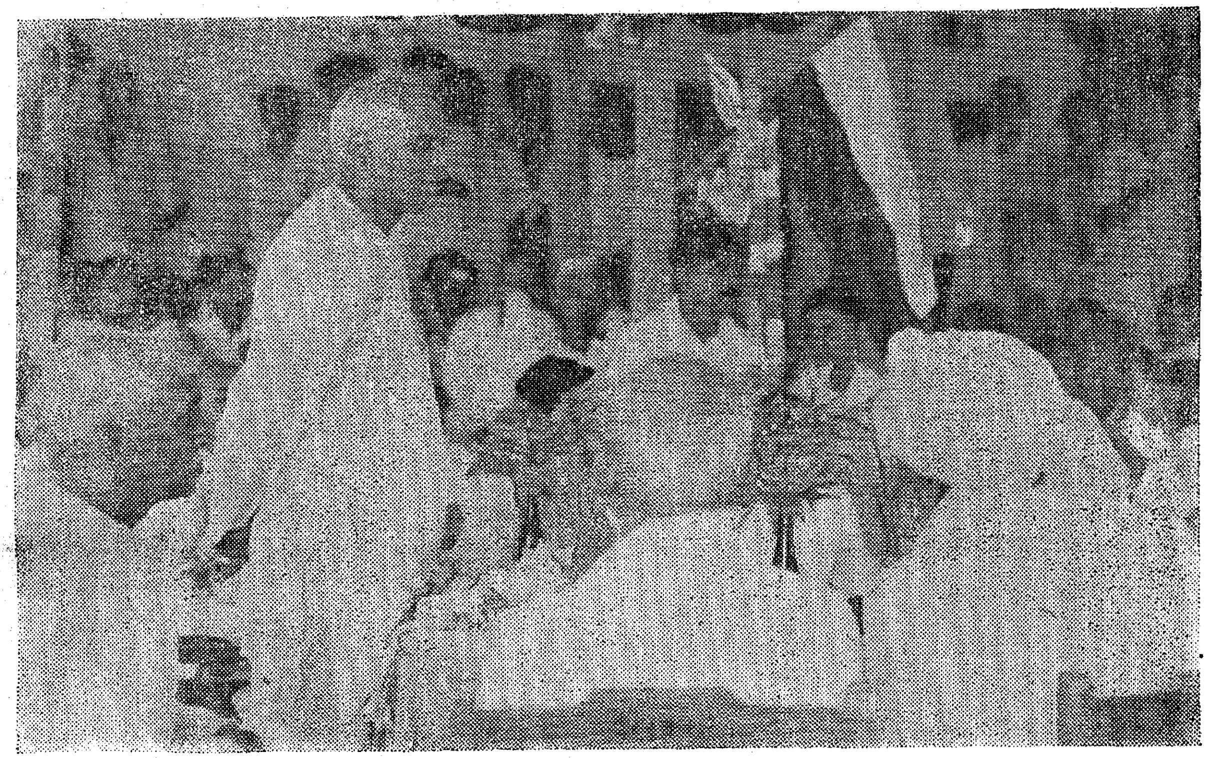
In the past, our Universites and colleges have grown without any reference to the industrial or commercial needs of this country. Time was when most of the products of the Universities expected employment in the Government; but that condition obtains no more to-day. Now it is

very necessary for our Universities and colleges to be in touch with the industries and commerce of this country as these will be our greatest employers in the future. I have heard as to how intimate are the relations between the industries and the Universities in many countries and how they are mutually helpful to each other. By thus keeping touch with the Industries, while University education has become more practical, the industries in their turn have received help from the research work in the Universities. If the same result is to be achieved in this country, I believe a great deal of reorganization in University education will be necessary.

This is more so with regard to professional education such as Engineering. Attempts have been made in the past to give University graduates a year of practical training before degrees were awarded to them. But, for many reasons, this plan was not successful and was given up. The Government are contemplating the introduction of an Apprenticeship Bill by which power will be taken to make industrialists give this practical training to our graduates in Engineering and other courses. This step, I believe, while it will bring us in line with the other progressive countries, will substantially aid the industries and the students to become more efficient.

There are many other problems which the Universities have to face. So long as the medium of instruction in the Universities is English, it will be impossible for us to expect that a large proportion of the people of the province will take advantage of that education. Using the regional language as the medium of instruction in the University will have an indirect effect in stimulating the literature in those languages in all subjects, which in its turn will act as the greatest lever of adult education in the country. Along with this must also come the establishment of rural Universities which must serve the special needs of the millions of men and women in our villages. We have our Oriental Colleges. The time must come when we should re-organize them also and put them on a proper footing. These and many other problems, the Universities have to face and I have no doubt the innate strength in these institutions will assert themselves and find proper solutions for these and many other problems that may face us.

Those who are in charge of University education, need today great vision, strength and daring, which will give them strength and ability to plan well for the future of a glorious India. And God willing, I have no doubt we will evolve a plan to suit the genius of this great country.



Another view of the meeting at Tanuku

South Indian Village Communities

Retrospect and Prospect

By V. R. R. DIKSHITAR.

III

Under Vijayanagar and Akbar

It is reasonable to assume that in the epoch of Vijayanagar, the same system of village Government and village community life persisted. The sabha and the Mahasabha continued to retain their old vitality. The Sabhas purchased and sold lands on behalf of the whole community. They had the function again of collecting taxes and remitting the share due to the imperial Government. It would appear that the Mahajanas of the lacality formed one Sabha and were the accredited agents of the imperial Government. The latter could neither impose fresh taxes or remit old ones without the consent and approval of the Sabha. They constituted into a Court of justice and punished the guilty and the offenders suitably. One method of punishment was confiscation of the property of the guilty persons. They were again responsible to the proper administration of trusts, temples and other charities. Individuals who did some special services to the community at large were often honoured by the Sabha, sometimes by the grant of a title. These local republics continued to function and exercise their rights, though some see a decline in their prestige towards the end of the Vijayanagar period. Even in the time of Akbar one sees that the village communities and townships were left free to manage their local affairs. But it must be admitted that the political influence weilded by these local bodies under Hindu rule was lost. Otherwise, the social, economic and spiritual life of the people in the villages was not affected in the

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demonstrates to them that rural India can manufacture numerous articles of utility with a high degree of artistic merit, most of which can easily excel the cheaper but dull and drab mass production goods imported from abroad.

All these advantages are derived from exhibitions by industries, in general, whether they are organized in the co-operative way or not. Certain special advantages that accrue to industrial co-operatives from such exhibitions merit mention. The cottage industries lack both the finance and the flair for advertising their goods. The exhibition of this type is the only powerful substitute to costly advertisements indulged in by capitalistic firms.

Further co-operative stores are usually accused of not providing any scope for the human desire "to pick and choose". But the present exhibition would clearly prove how false the charge is in these days when the whole exhibition is crammed with an endless diversity of innumerable goods. Again, the principle of "cash purchase" insisted upon by the co-operative system always places the co-operative societies at a disadvantage in comparison with private firms. When the pent up demand for goods spends itself out—and it will sooner, rather than later—the forces of private competition will devise several methods such as hire-purchase, discounts and prizes for pushing the sale of goods. To face this competition, co-operative enterprise has to arm itself only by its superior quality and high finish. To this matter of improving the quality, this exhibition is bound to play a great role because producers of the same commodities from various districts come across goods of varying degrees of excellence. This will naturally impart a spirit of emulation and co-operative industry will, to that extent, be benefited.

Need for Museums

Fairs and exhibitions are not alien to our soil. From very early times they have been held in holy places and political capitals during period. of religious festivals and national celebrations. They have attracted people from far and wide and even from foreign countries like China and Central Asiatic countries. Of late, exhibitions have come back into vogue and it is essential that this fashion must be strengthened and fortified to serve the interests of producers and consumers. It is my earnest wish that we should not be content with exhibitions but build central museums in the headquarters of every district, if not every taluk. Museums will render the services done by exhibitions more efficiently and continuously. I look forward to the time when the whole country will be studded with industrial museums and the entire rural sector will hum with industrial activity.

least. It was Elphinstone who observed "these communities contain in a miniature all the materials of a state within themselves, and are almost sufficient to protect their members if all other Governments were withdrawn. In the stability and continuity of Indian Village life and organization is to be sought the secret of the good things achieved by India in the past."

British Period

Again in the famous Fifth Report issued in 1812 (being a report of a Select Committee of the House of Commons) we meet with a list of officers and public servants in a Madras Village. These are the Village Headman, the Accountant, the Watchman, the Boundary man, the Superintendent of the tanks and water courses, the Priest, the Schoolmaster, the Astrologer, the Smith and Carpenter, the Fitter, the Washerman, the Barber, the Cowkeeper, the Physician, the Dancing girl, the Musician and Poet. Dr. John Mathai remarks that this list may be taken as fairly typical of the greater part of the country. It is said that "each of the professions represented in a village has in the majority of cases become crystallized into a caste with its customary duties and monopolies."

The difference between the Pre-British Village community and the village Government in the British period is considerable. Though the original method of remunerating village servants continues in some form or other, the chief officials of the village, viz., the headman, the accountant and watchmen are more servants of the Government than of the village community. Though the Village Panchayat still persists in several villages deciding local matters of importance and local disputes, attending to tank and canal irrigation, or the common pasturage, still the Panchayat has lost much of its rights and its importance as the focus of public opinion in the village. In fact the village community has now lost much of its internal cohesion. The various administrative duties which were once effectively and efficiently carried out by the village committees without any reference to the central or even provincial Government have now been slowly transferred to the agencies of the ruling power. Under the old system the important village officials like the headman, the accountant and even the village watchman were hereditary. Even this has been distributed to a considerable extent. It is now left to the revenue officers of the Government to accept or reject such candidates.

Conclusion

It is a matter for regret that the traditional system of village Government as administered by what is popularly known as Panchayats has died out or is fast dying. It is high time we realize the usefulness of associating local people with the administration. Local Self-Government is the first requisite to any form of self-Government. It is Local Self-Government if the people are allowed to exercise freely their autonomy and create a supreme sense of public opinion. The State should have little or nothing to do in the affairs of the villages or townships. The encouragement of the rural village administration by the voluntary grouping of the village or villages would alone bring about an organized nation. This will again enable us to revive our old and indigenous industrial arts which happily are not still dead. Even the Royal Commissioners on Decentralization in India felt that the village should be the foundation of any stable edifice. The sooner we realize this and resuscitate the villages to their original place in the national economy, the better for us and for our country.

(*Continued from page* 34)

efficiently and well, it will be impossible for us to get their sympathy and consent to raise the status of the teacher. It is my earnest request that all of you should, with a sense of service and missionary zeal, put your shoulders to the wheel and contribute your best towards the education of our children.

It is the intention of the Government to raise the status of the teachers in all other possible ways also, but the real status of any person is raised not by others but by his own character, sincerity and service. And so, as one of you and a brother in profession for nearly twenty years, I would earnestly beg of you to adopt in your own lives higher standards of purity and service, so that the status of the teacher can be permanently raised. God willing, it is the object of this Government to create a type of education which will make our boys and girls manly, strong and fearless and for that purpose the teachers, however humbly placed, must carry with them ideals of purity of service and fearlessness in their own lives. That is the surest way of raising our status in the eyes of the public. I would appeal to you, in the name of this great country and in the name of the glorious future that we have to build for our great country and our children, to put forth your best efforts to this end.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the Fortnight Ending 24th May 1947

About 150 tannery workers of the Naicker Shop at Madhavaram who struck work without notice on 10th May 1947 resumed work after two days. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the demands of the workers.

Under Section 11 (5) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of Madras have appointed Mr. S. Anantharamakrishnan, Managing Director, Messrs. Simpson and Company, Limited, Madras as Assessor in connection with the Court of Inquiry for Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops in the place of Mr. E. A. Watson who has resigned.

The Collector of Coimbatore has posted a Deputy Tahsildar as Special Labour Officer for the Radhakrishna Mill, Coimbatore, for a period of 3 months.

The workers of the Dhanalakshmi Mills, Limited, Tiruppur who struck work on 2nd May 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of three workers for misbehaviour resumed work on 7th May 1947 unconditionally.

The workers of the Lakshmi Mills Limited, Pappinaickenpalayam, Coimbatore, struck work from 12-30 p.m. on 3rd May 1947 as a protest against the suspension of a doffing boy for half an hour for misbehaviour towards the head maistri. The workers resumed work on the same day at 4-30 p.m. on the intervention of the leaders of the Coimbatore District Textile Workers Union, Singanallur.

The workers of Argus Engineering Works, Coimbatore, struck work on 7th May 1947 as a protest against the practice of cutting two days discretionary bonus from the wages of the workers for one day's absence. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the workers returned to work on 8th May 1947.

Twenty-one clerks of Sri Balasubramania Mills, Singanallur, struck work on 8th May 1947 as a protest against the assault on the head clerk of the mill by some workers. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, they returned to work on 9th May 1947, on the assurance given by the labour leaders that they would give adequate protection to the clerks inside and outside the mills.

The workers of the Radhakrishna Mills, Limited, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, observed hartal from 5 p.m. on 9th May 1947 to 3-30 a.m. on 10th May 1947 in connection with the arrest of the Socialist Leader, Sri Jai Prakash Narain.

The Secretary, Calicut Textile Workers' Union, Calicut, has issued a notice of strike, dated 25th April 1947 to the management of the Commonwealth Trust, Limited, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike between 11th May 1947 and 26th May 1947 if their demands for fixation of 8 hour working days, increase of wages and dearness allowance, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has asked the Labour Officer, Calicut, and the District Magistrate, Malabar, to advise the union to withdraw the strike notice and to await the result of the adjudication regarding standardisation of wages in handloom factories in Calicut.

The Secretary of the Standard Cotton and Silk Weaving Company Labour Union, Calicut, has served a notice of strike on the management of the Standard Cotton and Silk Weaving Company on 26th April 1947 intimating that the workers will go on strike from 12th May 1947 if their demands for a bonus of 3 months wages to all workers, provident fund, arrangements instead of Benefit Funds, free medical aid, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer Calicut, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers not to go on strike and to await the orders of Government on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Labour to appoint a Court of Enquiry for the handloom industry in the Province.

The Secretary, Kerala Rubber Estate Workers Union, Karuvankundu, wired on 1st May 1947 stating that one thousand estate workers had struck work on 28th April 1947 demanding 25 per cent bonus and 50 per cent dearness allowance. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has reported that the workers resumed work on 10th May 1947.

The Secretary of Textile Workers Congress, Calicut, has issued a notice of strike, dated 8th May 1947 to the Proprietor of the Malabar Weaving Establishment, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 22nd May 1947 if their demands for 3 months wages and bonus, medical aid, canteen, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management.

The workers of Messrs. K. P. Neelambi and Sons, Calicut, have issued a notice of strike, dated 8th May 1947, to the management of Messrs. K. P. Neelambi and Sons, Calicut (Handloom Factory) intimating that the workers will go on a strike from 26th May 1947 if their demands for 3 months wages as bonus, increment in wages, medical aid, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management.

The workers of Prabhat Textiles, Calicut, have issued a notice of strike, dated 13th May 1947, to the management intimating that the workers will go on strike from 27th May 1947 if their demands for 3 months wages as bonus increased dearness allowance, provident fund, starting of canteen, medical aid, etc., are not conceded by the management.

The Secretary of the Tile Workers Congress Union issued a notice of strike to the management of the Cydone Home Textile Company, Limited, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 16th May 1947 if their demands for bonus, increase of dearness allowance, to 15 per cent pay for leave period, medical aid and canteen, etc., are not conceded.

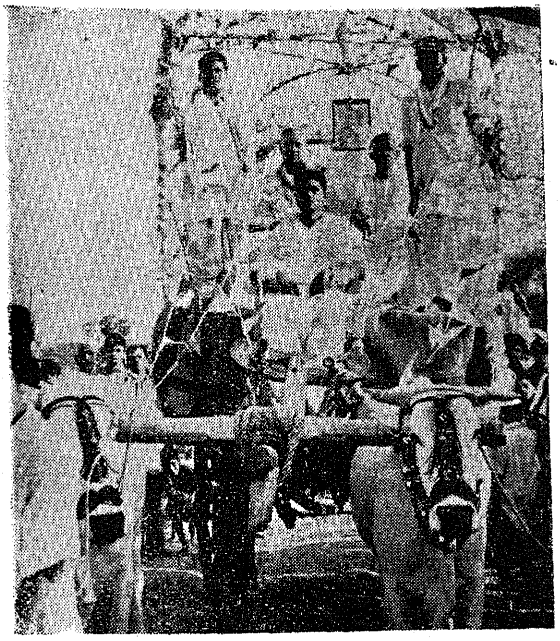
The workers of the Handloom factories in Calicu struck work on 12th May 1947 demanding increase in wages, supply of enough yarn to keep the looms engaged throughout the month, 3 months wages as bonus, opening of canteen for workers, etc. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been instructed to advise the workers to call off the strike and to resume work pending the orders of Government on the Commissioner's proposal to appoint a Court of Enquiry for the Handloom Industry in the Province.

The Government of Madras have accepted the Adjudicator's award in the dispute between the workers and the management of India Ceramic, Limited, Nellore.

It is reported that 26 workers in the Pottery Department of Messrs. Parry and Company, Limited, Ranipet, have been dismissed for refusing to work as per Adjudicator's award, and that another batch of 25 workers have been suspended for a week for refusing to do shift work on Sundays.

The Government have informed the Secretary of the Ranipet Labour Union that the award of the Adjudicator regarding pottery workers has been accepted by them and enforced on the

The Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao is being welcomed by the Congress leaders at Mungonda, Razole taluk.
—Picture taken during his recent tour in Andhra.



At Lakshmi Polavaram, Razole taluk, the Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao was given a splendid reception. Here in the picture the Revenue Minister is seen seated in a cart drawn by fifty pairs of bullocks. A huge crowd accompanies the Minister.

parties, and that management of the factory can take disciplinary action against the workers if they fail to abide by the Adjudicators' award.

The workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, who struck work on 11th March 1947 have not yet resumed work.

Sri S. Suryaprakasa Rao, Acting President of the Madras Labour Union is carrying on negotiations with the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Labour and the Hon'ble Premier on behalf of the workers.

The workers of the East Asiatic Company Oil Mills, Rayapuram, who struck work on 2nd May 1947 for terminating the services of 118 operatives from 1st May 1947 have been advised to resume work and the management have been advised to take back workers in the order of seniority.

The management of Messrs. Vummidi Ramayya Chetty and Guruswamy Chetty and Company (Jewellers), Madras, have closed their workshop on 1st May 1947 as they have lost confidence in their workers consequent on the misbehaviour of one of their workers and indiscipline inside the workshop.

Sri P. R. K. Sarma, M.L.C., President, Madras Kerosene Oil Workers' has issued a notice of strike to the managements of the Burma Oil Company, Standard Vacuum Oil Company and Caltex (India), Limited, Madras, on 16th May 1947 intimating that the workers will go on strike after 14 days if their demands for bonus, festival holidays, house rent allowance, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that these disputes may be recommended to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication.

In their Order Ms. No. 2227, Development, dated 2?th May 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and managements of Cinema Theatres in Madras City to Sri Diwan Bahadur K. S. Ramaswamy Sastry (Industrial Tribunal) for adjudication.

The Inspector of Factories, Guntur, has reported that the India Metal Works, Kurnool, has been closed on 25th April 1947 as the Kurnool Town Municipality has refused to issue a licence to the factory.

The workers of the Commonwealth Trust Tiles, Limited, Feroke, Malabar, who struck work from 12th May 1947, have not yet resumed work.

The action Committee of the Muslim Tobacco Labour Union, Palghat, has given a notice of strike to all the Tobacco Merchants on 17th May 1947 stating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for payment of wages, by the end of every month, fixation of the rate of loading a bundle of beedi at annas six and the rate for rebundling at annas twelve are not conceded. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to advise the Union to withdraw the strike notice and to await the result of the Court of Inquiry.

The Labour Officer, Vellore, has reported that the casual workers of the milk powder packing department of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factory, Limited, Ranipet, wanted 15 days wages in lieu of notice. The management have made representations to the Government and the orders of the Government are awaited. The workers resumed work but subsequently the Milk Factory has been closed. Only 30 workers are engaged in despatching the remaining goods.

The workers of the Deccan Sugar and Abkari Company, Limited, Pugalur, Trichinopoly, struck work on 16th May 1947 demanding the reinstatement of temporary seasonal workers discharged by the management. They resumed work on 19th May 1947.

The management of the Pulliccar Mills, Tiruchengode, Salem district, have closed down their

(Continued on page 36.)

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the Second Fortnight of April

Season and Crops

There was little or no rainfall in the districts of West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur and Bellary. In the other districts the rainfall was generally light and occurred in scattered places.

The level of water in the Mettur Reservoir was 109·20 feet on 30th April 1947 as against 13·95 feet on 30th April 1946.

Sowing or transplantation of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Chittoor, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Malabar and South Kanara, and of dry crops in Coimbatore and Ramnad districts. The condition of the standing crops was reported to be generally fair except in parts of East Godavari, Chittoor, Trichinopoly, Ramnad and South Kanara districts.

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in the districts of South Arcot, Chittoor, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly, and South Kanara, and of dry crops in the districts of Nellore, Vizagapatam and Cuddapah.

Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of cereals. As regards pulses, the only noticeable change was an increase of 2·4 per cent in the price of Bengalgram. The price of salt fell by 18 per cent. The position regarding the prices of oils, oilseeds, oilcakes, etc., was as follows :—

No change—Coconut oil and groundnut oil cake.

Rise—Copra (4·3 per cent).

Fall—Groundnut (shelled) (4·7 per cent); gingelly seed (3·7 per cent); gingelly oil (12·8 per cent); groundnut oil (7 per cent); gingelly oil cake (2·7 per cent); and cotton seed (1·2 per cent).

Procurement

The following statement shows the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured and the quantities of cereals and pulses received from sources outside the Province :—

(a) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 15th April 1947*—

	TONS.
Paddy and rice in terms of rice.	60,682
Millets	6,074

(b) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending 30th April 1947*—

	TONS.
Rice	1,856
Millets	Nil.
Wheat	26 (Samba wheat from Hyderabad)
Wheat products	Nil.
Pulses—	
Blackgram	74
Redgram	212
Greengram	112
Bengalgram	3,408
Total ..	3,806

(c) *Imports from Overseas during fortnight ending 30th April 1947*—Nil.

Stocks and Supply

Rice.—The stock of rice in the Province was 255,364 tons on 1st May 1947 as against 217,032 tons on 17th April 1947. Mainly as a result of the slowing-down of procurement of rice in the Circars, where Producers-Cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies have been the procuring agents, only about 107,000 tons of rice was procured in April. This is much less than the quantity of 179,000 tons procured in April 1946 and much less than the quantity expected in the month, which was about 200,000 tons. As the Producers-Cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies in the Circars were not able to procure the allotted quantities resulting in a serious set back in exports to the deficit districts, the Government have replaced those societies by millers as procuring agents. The stock on 1st May 1947 is 229,000 tons less than it was on the same date in 1946. Madras representatives at the recent Delhi conference have been informed that no substantial quota of rice will be allotted to this Province in addition to what has already been allotted under the Kharif plan.

During the fortnight stocks in Chittoor fell to so low a level that the rice ration in the rural areas in the district had to be reduced temporarily from 12 oz. to 10 oz. from 20th April. Arrangements have been made to rush supplies to Chittoor from surplus areas. In Malabar where the ration is being raised to 12 oz. on 4th May 1947, the stock

position is so bad that it is feared that the ration will shortly have to be lowered to 10 oz.

The stock position in Guntur and East Godavari was so unsatisfactory that no exports were allotted from East Godavari for May 1947 and all arrear quotas due from Guntur were cancelled.

Millets.—There is a slight increase in the stock of millets during the fortnight from 21,349 tons on 17th April 1947 to 21,464 tons on 1st May 1947. Procurement of millets during April was approximately 11,000 tons. A larger quantity was thus procured in April 1947 than in March 1947 but procurement was not so good as in April 1946, when 13,051 tons were procured. A shipload of 8,000 tons of milo is expected from Ceylon during May and will be distributed to the needy districts. Shortage of millets is greatest now in Guntur and Nellore.

Maize.—Maize stocks fell slightly during the fortnight from 6,287 tons to 6,186 tons.

Barley.—There has been a more appreciable fall in barley stocks which were 871 tons on the 1st May as compared with 1,236 tons in 17th April.

Wheat.—Stocks have decreased from 4,953 tons to 4,667 tons. No imports are expected before the end of July. In some districts it has become necessary to order sale to all cardholders without restriction to habitual consumers in order to dispose of stocks before they become unfit for human consumption.

Wheat products.—Stocks have fallen from 2,748 tons to 2,357 tons. Maida is becoming old in some places and in these places it is being disposed of in the same way as wheat, by allowing issues to all ration cardholders.

Pulses.—Import of the 1946-47 Rabi plan quotas of Bengalgram from North-west India continues at a rapid rate mostly by sea from Karachi. Three ships carrying a total quantity of about 4,400 tons are expected at Tuticorin, Madras and Cochin during the first week of May. Under the new 1947-48 plan, Bengalgram quotas totalling 33,000 tons have been allotted to this Province from Punjab, Sind and Rajput States and Dholpur. A quota of 870 tons of redgram from Rampur has also recently been allotted to this Province. Movements of blackgram from Hyderabad in exchange for Bengalgram have not so far started. Substantial quantities of high priced pulses from overseas generally from East Africa have recently arrived at Madras Port.

Rationing

Orders were issued during the fortnight permitting the non-cultivating landholders to retain or import rice at the rate of 12 oz. per adult per day and the actual cultivators at the rate of 1 lb. as before. Subject to eligibility, wheat and wheat-products (including bread) were also allowed to them, provided they surrender an equal quantity of rice.

It was ordered that the meals hotels in the rural and statutorily rationed areas should continue to be COMPULSORILY issued 10 per cent of their quota in the shape of maize and 5 per cent in the shape of barley flour and non-meals hotels 25 per cent of their requirements in the shape of maize and 10 per cent in the shape of barley flour.

Subsidiary Food Stuffs

The Government have fixed ceiling prices for brown sugar in all the districts of the Province.

Coconuts and Products Thereof

The ban on the inter-district movement of coconuts, copra and coconut oil within the province was removed during the fortnight. Control over the prices of coconuts was also lifted. Export outside the Province will however continue to be controlled as hitherto by permits in respect of coconuts and copra alone. Export of coconut oil outside the Province will not be permitted.

Miscellaneous Commodities

Supply of firewood was reported to be inadequate in the towns of Coimbatore and Cuddapah and in parts of Ramnad, Guntur and Kistna districts. It was also reported that there was a shortage of salt in most parts of Tanjore district. Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Nellore, Vizagapatam, Chingleput and West Godavari.

In most of these cases the Collectors are taking necessary steps.

Report for the First Fortnight of May

Weather conditions and crop prospects.—There was no rainfall in the districts of West Godavari, East Godavari, Guntur, Kistna, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput and Trichinopoly. In the rest of the Province, it was generally light.

The level of water in the Mettur Reservoir was 108·85 feet on 15th May 1947 as against 15·40 feet on 15th May 1946.

Sowing or transplantation of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Vizagapatam, Chittoor,

Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Coimbatore and Malabar and of dry crops in the districts of Vizagapatam, Nellore, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Tanjore, Coimbatore, Salem and the Nilgiris. The condition of the standing crops was reported to be generally fair except in parts of East Godavari, Chittoor, Trichinopoly and Ramnad districts.

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in the districts of East Godavari, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevelly, Coimbatore, Malabar and South Kanara and of dry crops in the districts of Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, Chittoor and Nellore.

Market conditions and trend of prices.—There was no perceptible change in the prices of cereals and pulses. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil seeds, oil cakes, etc., was as follows:—

No change—Coconut oil, groundnut oil cake and cotton seed.

Rise—Groundnut (shelled) (2·6 per cent); copra (4·2 per cent) and groundnut oil (1·7 per cent).

Fall—Gingelly seed (3·5 per cent); gingelly oil (5·9 per cent) and gingelly oil cake (2·8 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of foodgrains locally procured in the districts and those received from sources outside the Province:—

(*a*) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 30th April* 1947—

	TONS.	
Paddy ..	41,842	Together equivalent to 50,309 tons in terms of rice.
Rice ..	21,726	
Millets ..	5,942	

(*b*) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending 15th May* 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	1,447
Millets	Nil.
Wheat and wheat products.	Nil.
Pulses—	
Blackgram	762
Redgram	98
Greengram	252
Bengalgram	6,149
Total ..	7,261

(*c*) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th May* 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	2,500
Millets	1,100 (milo)
Wheat and wheat products.	Nil.

Stock and supply position in the Province—Rice.—The stock of rice in the Province on 15th May 1947 was 242,348 tons as against 255,364 tons on 1st May 1947.

Rice stocks in all the districts are generally low. Complaints of shortages are being received from several deficit districts which are dependent on the Circars for rice imports, owing to the fact that procurement in the Circars has not yet caught up after the millers took over. Latest reports indicate some improvement in the procurement, about 52,914 tons being procured in the first fortnight of May compared with 50,308 tons in the previous fortnight. There are very heavy arrear quotas still to be moved from the Circars. Instructions have been issued to all Supply Officers to intensify procurement by making use of their seizure powers analogous to requisition powers under the old arrangement. Among the deficit districts, the position in Malabar and Coimbatore continued to be critical. In Malabar, not only the rice ration but also the overall ration which had been raised to 12 oz. on 4th May 1947 had to be put back to 10 oz. in the urban areas and to 8 oz. in all the rural areas except in two taluks. In Coimbatore, the rice ration was reduced to 10 oz. in the urban and to 8 oz. in the rural areas. Special quotas from non-surplus districts in the central and southern parts of the Province are being sent to Coimbatore and Malabar to replenish stocks. In view of the overall rice shortage and poor prospects of substantial imports of rice from outside in the coming months the rice ration was reduced from 11th May 1947 to 10 oz. in the rural areas of all non-surplus districts in the Province. Subsequently orders have been issued for the reduction of the overall cereal ration from 12 oz. to 10 oz. throughout the Province with effect from 25th May 1947.

Millets.—Stock of millets increased from 21,464 tons to 21,683 tons. The off-take of millets was 8,647 tons in March but returns so far received indicate that it was about 10,000 tons in April. Procurement of millets was rather unsatisfactory being only 4,092 tons in the first fortnight of May, as compared with 12,016 tons in April. Despatches of ragi from Orissa against the quota of 674 tons allotted to this Province have commenced. The quota of 8,000 tons of overseas milo allotted to this Province for May 1947 is being shipped from Colombo to Madras Port and should be completely received by the middle of June. In addition, an allotment of 3,000 tons of

(*Continued on page* 33.)

How Khadi can be made Universal

[*In the course of a statement in the Assembly on April 24, 1947, the Hon'ble Mr. M. Bhakthavatsalam said as follows :—" We propose to implement effectively the resolution passed by the All-India Spinners' Association at its meeting in Delhi on 9th October 1946 for the extensive development of Khadi." The text of the resolution referred to is given below.*]

The All-India Spinners' Association believes on the strength of its experience that the means of bringing about conditions in which there will be no scarcity of cloth as is now prevailing in India and other countries of the world such as Malaya, etc., lies in the popularization of the spinning wheel and the handloom. India is the only country where production of Khadi by hand-weaving out of hand-spun yarn has been going on from ancient times and where even to-day in spite of a large number of cotton mills existing in the country pure hand-spun and hand-woven Khadi is being produced through the All-India Spinners' Association. During the last about twenty years, the All-India Spinners' Association has been able, through its work, to distribute nearly seven crores of rupees in the form of wages to poor spinners and weavers.

It is essential for the Governments, which recognize the importance of the economic order based on village industries and want to do Khadi work as part thereof, to adopt the following measures :—

(*a*) Planning a five-year programme, spinning should be taught and introduced as an important activity in all the primary, middle and normal schools in the Province or the State. There should be at least one handloom attached to every school for weaving hand-spun yarn. Basic education should be introduced early and on the widest scale possible.

(*b*) Multi-purpose co-operative societies should be established in villages and Khadi work should be carried on through them as part of village uplift work.

(*c*) Steps should be taken to encourage cotton cultivation in areas where it is not grown at present. Seed-cotton, cotton and implements of spinning with accessories should be made available to spinners on easy terms.

(*d*) Research in Khadi should be undertaken and experts should be trained for Khadi work.

(*e*) In programmes of village uplift, hand-spinning will have to be given place in some form or other. Therefore, all employees of the co-operative, education and agricultural departments of Governments and also those of the district boards, local boards, village panchayats, etc., should be made to pass the preliminary Khadi examination (" Khadi pravesh ") and no one should be freshly recruited in these departments unless he has passed this examination.

(*f*) There should be control on prices of handloom cloth woven out of mill yarn.

(*g*) Trade in uncertified Khadi should not be allowed to be carried on in the name of Khadi.

(*h*) Only hand-spun yarn should be used in the textile departments and weaving schools of the Governments. Hand-spinning and hand-weaving should be introduced in jails also.

Provincial Governments and Indian States are requested to adopt among others the above measures in order to universalize Khadi. The All-India Spinners' Association and its branches will fully co-operate with them in promoting this.

Governments and mill-owners should, in consultation with the Spinners' Association, so arrange that mill cloth and mill yarn will not go into the areas where it is possible to meet the cloth requirements of the people thereof through hand-spinning and hand-weaving. Further, they should see that no new mills are set up and no new spinning and weaving machinery are brought in the existing mills. Management of the cotton mills should be conducted according to the advice of the Government and the Spinners Association. There should be absolutely no import into the country from abroad of any kind of yarn or cloth.

Governments should enact the necessary laws and bring them into operation.

Mill-owners are requested to stand by the masses and help in this work which is meant for the good of millions of our people.

Britain Accepts World Food Plan

By GEORGE MARTIN

Although it may seem untimely at the present moment of an acute world food shortage to stress the problem of potential food surpluses, it is necessary in order to secure an increased food production now to give farmers in Britain and overseas a real assurance that their increased output will not lead again to a world-wide agricultural crisis as after World War I. To evolve a long-term planfor world agriculture was the task of the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals, whose report has been published as a White Paper in London. The British Government fully accept it as a basis for the world planning in the future.

The two objectives aimed at are the raising of the standard of nutrition of the 1,000,000,000 people who before World War II did not get enough food, and secondly the introduction of a greater measure of stability into agriculture at levels fair to producers and consumers alike. The Commission rejected Sir John Orr's proposals for the establishment of a World Food Board as an executive trading body to promote these aims. Nevertheless, the Report is in agreement with his great conception and has evolved from it a practical scheme which will be workable.

The Report deals with three main problems—development programmes, price stabilization and commodity policy and the strengthening of the machinery of the Food and Agricultural Organization. Although no executive body is to be set up for the achievement of its aims, co-ordination between national programmes is to be made more effective. For this purpose, an Annual Programme Review should be an integral part of each regular session of the F.A.O. Conference. Each nation should submit details of all its plans for production and consumption, imports and exports of all important food and agricultural products. Thus it will be possible to link the individual programmes together. For instance if one country wanted to expand dairy produce, involving heavy imports of feeding stuffs, it would be necessary to see that the countries producing those feeding stuffs would plan to make sufficient quantities available.

Management of Famine Reserves

Many problems requiring international co-operation, however, are too urgent to be dealt with only at annual reviews. This is especially true of the management of world famine reserves and of any changes in programme which may be required within individual areas. The Report, therefore, proposes the establishment of a World Food Council, composed of representatives of 18 member-nations and delegates of inter-governmental agencies, as part of the F.A.O. machinery. The Council shall meet as required and at least twice between the annual sessions of the F.A.O. Conference.

The recommendations regarding price stabilization and commodity policy are of particular importance. Potential output when the war-devastated areas get back into production, will be much greater than before the war. The steps taken by Governments in food-producing countries all over the world to provide guaranteed prices and assured markets will create very serious problems which can only be solved by inter-Governmental planning especially as in the importing countries the prices paid by the consumers are equally shielded from world prices by subsidies and other measures.

In accordance with British suggestions, the Report proposes that any international agency for the supervision of commodity agreements should not be confined to agricultural products, but ultimately come under the supervision of the Commodity Authority to be established under I.T.O. (International Trade Organization).

Buffer stocks are an appropriate means of price stabilization for certain commodities where the problem is mainly one of seasonal and cyclical price fluctuations. Such buffer stocks are not to be held by an international authority as was suggested by Sir John Orr, since a number of nations would not be able to put up the substantial amounts of dollars required as initial capital, but a British suggestion was adopted that they should be nationally held, first to be accumulated by the exporting countries and only when these have reached the agreed level should importing countries be called upon to fill their reserves. This enables consideration for balance of payment difficulties.

Where buffer stock are to be provided, the agreements are to work as follows: A maximum and a minimum price is to be fixed for a period of years, and within this range the market price

will be free to move, but not outside it. If the price falls to or below the floor level, then the buffer stocks will be filled. Similarly when the price rises to the ceiling, further increases are prevented through sales from the buffer stock reserves.

May be surplus

Nevertheless, Government-subsidized production in many countries, especially the United States, may lead to a persistent surplus for some years when the present shortage ends. In this event, any producing country prepared to subsidize shipments to needy countries at special prices may be allowed to do so; but the exporting country must bear the whole loss on such shipments and it must not be recovered from the price of commercial exports.

In addition to buffer stocks, the Report recommends the creation of a Famine Reserve of essential foodstuffs, particularly breadgrains and rice.

Quotas are essential for the international regulation of certain commodities, but should be accompanied by adequate safeguards.

The Report contains observations on the application of these principles to twelve agricultural commodities—wheat, sugar, rice, livestock products, oils and fats, fish, fruits and vegetables, tea, cocoa, cotton, wool, and timber.

The Problem of Rice

Although the outlook for the current crop of rice in India is quite favourable, the shortage of exportable rice will continue since pre-war production in the major exporting countries has not yet been restored. For the present marketing year (ending June 30, 1947) export supplies available for allocation amount to 2,800,000 tons. Although this represents an improvement on the total allocations of 1,700,000 tons for 1945–46, it is still only 40 per cent of the international trade in rice before the war. On the other hand, substantial increases in population have occurred in the rice-eating countries since the beginning of the war (e.g., China 15 per cent, India 6 per cent, Philippines 10 per cent, Hongkong 76 per cent).

May Take Thirty Years

Transportation and distribution difficulties continue in the areas which were under Japanese occupation. Thus it may take from 20 to 30 years to replace coastwise shipping destroyed during the occupation in areas like the Netherlands, East Indies and the Philippines, it is pointed out in a recent statement by the International Emergency Food Council. In other areas over 50 per cent of the work-animals and native carts were destroyed.

The actual holders of any rice supplies are often unable or unwilling to release stocks for commercial sale owing to lack of incentive goods especially textiles. Instances have been reported of workers being unable to tend their fields because of lack of clothing. The currency conditions in some parts of the Far East also impede normal trade.

International co-operation is necessary to bring about an improvement. This is the more important since the rice shortage in turn intensifies the shortage of other cereals, abnormal supplies of which have to be shipped to the Far East to make up part of the rice deficit. Short-term action is being taken by the International Emergency Food Council. As the first step in marshalling international support for the greatest possible production and collection effort this year, the I.E.F.C. Committee on Rice is collecting information on the production and mobilization of rice crops in each rice-producing country, especially the factors still in the way of maximum production (e.g., inadequate supplies of seed, fertilizers, implements, consumer goods, etc.) and mobilization (e.g., inadequate supplies of ancillary materials, consumer goods and transport facilities, foreign exchange, resources, etc.)

Although the Committee realizes the limitations of international action, it thinks that the Council might be of assistance to national Governments in supporting their claims for imports of commodities essential to rice production (e.g., gunny sacks, fertilizers, etc.) or by indication where these supplies could be best obtained.

Expanding Production

The object of this survey is to explore how the I.E.F.C. can be of assistance in dealing with the specific difficulties encountered by the rice-producing countries in their efforts to expand production and to mobilize supplies effectively in 1947 and 1948. The long-term problems of the world rice situation is being discussed in a Rice Study Group meeting, convened by the United

Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation at Trivandrum. The suggestion for this meeting was first made by the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals. India proposed the establishment of a Rice Board in south-east Asia designed to secure closer co-ordination between Governments in connection with the production, distribution and price of rice. No definite conclusions were reached on this proposal. The problems raised by it—improvement of marketing methods, measures for price stabilization, establishment of famine reserves and exchange of technical information—form the agenda of the Rice Study Group.

The severe shortage of animal proteins in European diets has brought an abnormal demand for pulses—beans and peas, lentils, etc. Although world output is slightly above the pre-war quantity, the disparity between the supplies and stated requirements for pulses is greater than for any other food under allocation recommendation by I.E.F.C. In Europe as a whole, production in 1946 was about 13 per cent below the pre-war average, but the decline was steeper in some countries than in others; bad weather led to disappointing crops especially in Austria, Italy, Poland, Greece and Northern Europe. Severe shortages are also reported from the Far East. Only in Oceania and the western hemisphere has production increased substantially above the pre-war level. As Oceania's share in world production is relatively small, the major contribution to the solution of the world shortage must come from the western hemisphere, from which about 350,000 tons are provided out of the total exportable supply of 500,000 tons. Supplies for the second half of the crop year are only about one-eighth of stated requirements, and in these circumstances a deterioration in the protein consumption level of various countries appears almost inevitable. Recently the United States made an additional 14,000 tons of beans available for shipment to Europe.

F.A.O. Rice Study Group

I

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer on the Problems to be Examined

The following are extracts from a talk broadcast from the A.I.R., Madras, on 21st May 1947 :—

The Conference that is meeting in Trivandrum is the first attempt to deal with the problem of rice on an international level. So far, commodities like wheat, tea, rubber and sugar have been dealt with on that basis. But rice being an Asiatic crop purely has not received the same attention up till now. A conference of the United Nations made it clear that international planning was absolutely essential in the case of rice. They further stated that there never has been enough food for the health of all people and therefore production of food must be greatly expanded.

The work of the Rice Study Group which has attracted the attention of delegates and which has obtained the co-operation of members of various countries including not only India but Japan, China, Korea, Burma, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and the United States may be divided into three phases; one is the short-term phase dealing with the determination of surpluses and deficits and the facilities for collection and transport. This is specially necessary so as to avoid such disappointment as we have experienced in the case of Burma and Indonesia.

India has the largest acreage under rice in the world. But its production is only equal to that of China with half of India's acreage. This disparity in yield has to be dealt with and remedied by better seeds and manure facilities. The general theory now is that the problem of India and indeed of the world is not over-population but under-development of resources. Those resources have to be conserved by proper processing and preparation. The question of avoidance of wastage during transit, proper transport systems and refrigeration have to be dealt with. With the need for introducing better seeds by selection the expansion of the track by transplanting has to be contemplated. Botanical research for increased yield in the production and the all-important variety is a *sine qua non*. The problem has also to be dealt with from the point of view of disease-resistance. There are many problems of this kind, both short-term problems and long-term problems. Both the problems will be dealt with by the Rice Study Group.

After they have collated the results they will prepare an agenda for an international rice conference. On the results and the wisely implemented results of this Conference depends the health, prosperity and progress of South-East Asia, and we therefore look forward with great anticipation and great hopes to the work of this Rice Study Group.

II

Modern Methods of Rice Production

The following is the text of a talk broadcast on 21st May, from the A.I.R., Madras, by Mr. William Henry Cummings, Leader of the United States Delegation to F.A.O. Rice Group, and Agricultural Economist, Office of the Foreign Agricultural Relations, United States Department of Agriculture.

Rice in the United States is a speciality crop. Last year a record of one and a half million acres was grown. The average yields vary from 50 bushels per acre in the Arkansas area to 80 bushels in California.

Rice is considered a speciality crop because it is produced only in areas where certain conditions prevail, and because specialized equipment is used. Briefly these conditions are, (1) level land which has an impervious subsoil layer to prevent the downward movement of water; (2) an abundant supply of fresh water readily available from rivers, shallow wells or irrigation channels; (3) high temperature and an abundance of sunlight hours during the growing seasons; and (4) general terrain slope and ground water levels such as to make it possible to quickly drain the rice fields so that mechanized equipment can be used for harvesting.

The California production area is the most progressive. New cultural practices, specialized equipment and new methods of weed and pest controls are continuously being evolved and put into practice. Last year field trials were made of the selective weed killer known as 2,—4-D. The chemical does not affect narrow-leaved grasses or rice. Broad-leaved plants, hedges and water plants such as duck-weed, are quickly killed by spraying with 2,—4-D. As you might expect, the weed killer was sprayed on the crop from an airplane. This method of weed control is effective. It is quicker and cheaper than previous methods. In another two seasons it is anticipated that airplane spraying of 2,—4-D will become the standard method of weed control.

The airplane first came to the aid of the rice farmer as a seeding implement. The control of barnyard grass in rice field was the problem which tapped the ingenuity of the rice farmer. Conditions which were ideal for the germination of rice were also superb for barnyard grass. The first method of control was dozed flooding of the machine-planted fields to a depth that would drown the grass but not quite drown the rice. This method was hard to follow under field conditions, where the land was not absolutely level and uniform depth of flooding difficult to maintain. Flooding before seeding controlled the grass but it was expensive and difficult to broadcast rice seed by wheeled machines in flooded fields. The airplane flying over flooded fields scattering soaked seed which would sink was the final answer. Nearly 100 per cent of the Californian crop is now seeded by airplane.

The preparation of the field is carried out under dry conditions and consists of ploughing, burrowing and levelling. The field is flooded to a depth of 4 to 6 inches and the seed sown from the air. The water is kept on the field throughout the growing season. When the grain begins to fill out the fields are drained. By the time the grain is ready to cut the ground is sufficiently dry and firm to support mechanised harvest. There were several problems connected with harvesting and threshing, and these were finally solved by the introduction of the rice combine. This is a machine which cuts and threshes the crop in one operation. Three men and a large combine can harvest and thresh one thousand acres a day. The cost of gunnies and the cost of bundling the crop in bags have become too great. Therefore, the rice is bulk-handled. The combine delivers the threshed and cleaned paddy into a truck which delivers it to the rice drier. This machine reduces the moisture content to 14 per cent water at which level it is safe to bulk-store paddy.

Milling in the United States is much the same as it is here in India as far as basic machinery and processes are concerned. The difference is chiefly in the number of labourers employed.

India has contributed to United States—in culture. Rain during harvest time is a great handicap and often causes damage. The rains come after the usual growing season and harvest season. In order to shorten the harvesting period varieties with earlier maturity dates were needed. From among the many introduced varieties maintained at the experimental stations for breeding purposes there was found an Indian variety which had the early maturity qualities needed. By combination and subsequent selection a long grained rice with stiff straw, having a

high yield and an early maturity date, was developed.

During the war period the rice acreage has doubled. The 1931-35 average was 800,000 acres. As mentioned at the beginning, rice is a speciality crop. The average farm is about 2,800 acres of which a third to a half is under rice in a single year. All producers own their own cultivation and irrigation equipment. Many own their harvesting machinery. Some harvesting is done by contracting with a man who owns his specialized equipment.

Airplane seeding and weed spraying is done by individuals or firms who work on a contract basis.

The American rice farmer is still faced with problems as yet unsolved. One of them is weather. Rain is his greatest enemy. Unlike his Indian counterpart who looks anxiously at the skies for signs of much-desired rains, the American farmer looks upward with a prayer on his lips for bright skies and no rains. He often wishes he could control the weather to his desires, but this is an achievement beyond the ingenuity of the present-day Californian.

III

Rice Situation in Burma

Talk by U. KHIN, *Deputy Director of Agriculture, Government of Burma, and Deputy Leader of the Burmese Delegation to the Rice Study Group of F.A.O., broadcast on 21st May* 1947, *from the A.I.R., Madras.*

The war has left us with many problems of which that of food is one of the most important. I should like to say a few words to explain how Burma, as an important rice exporting country, is doing her mite towards solving the problem of world food shortage.

In Burma the first need is to restore rather than to expand rice production. In 1945–46 some 6 million acres out of a pre-war 12½ million acres had gone out of cultivation and the first task of the Government was to restore these lost acres. The "target" set for 1946–47 was 8½ million acres and this would have undoubtedly been reached but for adverse weather in the dry zone which caused a fall in area instead of a rise in Upper Burma. The actual sown area was 8·1 million acres. The measues taken to achieve this result were the grant of a subsidy of Rs. 12 per acre for every acre fallow in 1945–46 which was put under rice cultivation in 1946–47, the issue of some Rs. 3,00,00,000 as crop and cattle loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, the promise of a paddy price to the grower which would cover the cost of cultivation and leave him a reasonable profit, the setting up of a buying organization to ensure quick clearance from mills and to maintain reasonable price level, the organized distribution of consumer goods in rural areas, the issue of rice and seed free or at low prices in distressed areas and the provision of adequate supplies of implements and materials.

To ensure full availabilty of production, no special measures such as compulsory purchase schemes, have been found necessary to extract the maximum amount of rice from the grower. On the contrary the attractive price has undoubtedly caused overselling in some areas and great caution will be necessary in moving stocks from these areas. To guard against attempts by traders and others to hold stocks for speculative purposes and also to control the internal situation, compulsory declaration of stocks and movements is being enforced. The Government have full powers to requisition stock.

With regard to the 1947–48 crop, the subsidy has been abandoned as no longer necessary, but the other measures will remain in force. In addition fairly considerable sums have been issued as land improvement loans principally for the repair and reconstruction of sea-walls and embankments in maritime and estuarine areas and protective works in flooded areas.

Under reasonable conditions a further million acres may come under cultivation this year and perhaps a further million acres in the following year, bringing the sown area in 1948–49 up to some 10½ million acres. Beyond this, progress is likely to be slow unless the cattle position is restored, law and order is fully established in the producing areas and prices remain at a sufficiently attractive level. Experiments in mechanized cultivation of rice land have been proposed. It had been hoped that these experiments would have been begun this year, but this has proved impossible. The experiments proposed are of two kinds—technical experiments to discover the best types of tractors and tools for the purpose of the Agricultural department's own farms and practical experiments in mechanized cultivation on large collective or co-operative farms under expert management; with field embankments designed for contour ploughing and a fully equipped tractor

unit under skilled technical supervision. It is the opinion of some at least of Burma's experts that in the establishment of such large mechanized collective farms, using pure seed, adequate fertilizers and modern methods of cultivation, lies the best hope of a rapid increase in the production of rice per acre in Burma. Much therefore hangs on the success of those experiments.

(*Continued from page* 26).

Australian sorgum meal offered by the Government of India has been accepted by this Government.

Maize.—Maize stocks have fallen from 6,186 tons to 4,697 tons. Against the allotment of 1,281 tons of maize to Central Provinces a quantity of 893 tons has so far been despatched from this Province. The off-take of maize in April was about 2,200 tons.

Barley.—Barley stocks decreased from 871 tons to 751 tons. The monthly off-take during April was about 250 tons.

Wheat and wheat products.—Stocks of wheat have fallen from 4,667 tons to 4,042 tons during the fortnight and stocks of maida from 2,357 tons to 1,774 tons. The off-take of wheat and maida during April was about 1,800 tons and 700 tons respectively. No imports of wheat and wheat products are expected before the end of July.

Pulses.—During the fortnight, 7,261 tons of pulses were received in the Province. Out of this quantity, the following quantitis were received by the ships mentioned below :—

		TONS.	
S.s. *Jalavijaya*	..	2,400	Bengalgram.
S.s. *Jalajyothi*	..	660	,,
S.s. *Jalamani*	..	1,300	,,

The s.s. *Pentakota* carrying 960 tons of Bengalgram from Karachi is expected at Cochin in the second fortnight of the month. Shortage of redgram has been reported from 11 districts and since only a small quota from Rampur remains to be imported, it is feared that there will be a great shortage of redgram in the Province later in the year. Small quantities of overseas pulses, mostly Bengalgram, continued to be imported at high prices.

Rationing.—Sugar rations have been extended to children of 2 years and below on the same scale as for adults with effect from 6th May 1947. The maximum limit of ration which was fixed at 8 visses for a family for a month has also been removed.

Miscellaneous commodities.—Supplies of groundnut and coconut oil were reported to be insufficient in Nellore district.

Stock of firewood was reported to be inadequate in the towns of Ootacamund, Coimbatore and Tuticorin and in parts of Ramnad and Kistna districts.

Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Vizagapatam, Nellore, Cuddapah, Chingleput, West Godavari and South Kanara.

The Fight against Plague

In Pollachi

Plague is a disease primarily of rats caused by small germs which are carried from one rat to another by fleas which usually live on them. When a rat dies of plague these fleas run away from them and bite human beings who in turn are attacked by the disease. It is clear therefore that there will be no plague if there are no rats. This disease usually occurs in moderately cool places like Bangalore, places in Coimbatore and Salem districts and also Nilgiris. Pollachi is a cool and healthy place except for periodical epidemics of this disease. There was an epidemic during December 1945 which subsided in March 1946. A more serious epidemic broke out in June 1946 and lasted for six months in which there were 400 attacks and 153 deaths. Very vigorous steps were taken by the health authorities to arrest the spread of the disease. At the height of the epidemic the Director of Public Health, Madras, the Assistant Director of Public Health, Madras, the District Health Officer, Coimbatore, and the District Medical Officer, Coimbatore, visited the area and gave necessary instructions to the authorities.

Fumigation

Rats and fleas were destroyed by blowing a poisonous gas (fumigation with cyanogas) into all rat-burrows. The Municipality employed a large contingent of menials, fumigation coolies, peons and Plague Inspectors who worked under the orders of the Municipal Health Officer. The fumigation coolies were allotted to the different parts of the town and they attended to the rat-burrows which were fumigated and closed. Fumigation was done block by block, streets or roads forming boundaries of the blocks. 4,07,225 burrows over the top of the walls and 13,84,653 over the ground were so treated during a period of eight months. Outposts were erected at all

entrances to the town and no articles of grains, cotton seeds, or gunny bags likely to carry fleas were allowed to be taken out unless they were properly fumigated. The articles were put under tarpaulins and the gas was pumped in. This was done to destroy rats and fleas and thus prevent the spread of the disease to other places. The public was not permitted to take out any baggage either by bus or train unless they produce a certificate to the effect that proper fumigation was done. On some days this work was very hard as hundreds of carts would come in with numerous bags.

Inoculation

42,674 persons were inoculated against plague. Ten plague Inspectors were appointed specially for the purpose and all the local Medical practitioners helped in this work. New arrivals into the town were carefully watched for and were inoculated. To make it convenient for all people the inoculation was done in different parts of the town and special centres were fixed for women and children. Very many had the inoculations in their own houses by private doctors who were liberally supplied with vaccine.

Treatment

A big shed was erected in the compound of the Government Hospital, Pollachi, and those suffering from the disease were persuaded to get themselves admitted here for treatment. Special medicines, extra diet articles and bedding were supplied. A non-official relief Committee contributed towards the extra expenditure. An additional staff of menials was also appointed. The Municipal Health Officer made a round of all the infected localities every day for enquiries and persuaded the new cases to have proper treatment. The treatment of the patients was done by the Civil Assistant Surgeon who had made special arrangements for this work. The results of the treatment were very encouraging and patients started coming in voluntarily. Two hundred and eighteen cases were treated and only 51 died. Even out of this, 24 had no proper treatment and came in very late. So we can conclude that among those who had timely treatment the death rate was only 12 per cent.

Permanent Improvements

At the instance of the Health Department permanent rat proof godowns were constructed in four big factories in this town. Notices were issued to replace the country tiles in houses, shops and godowns with mangalore tiles as the former were found to harbour rats. One hundred and sixteen replacements have so far been effected.

The following instructions will be useful for any one living in a place like Pollachi which is subject to such epidemics :—

(1) If any dead rat is found do not handle it and throw it away. Cover it with kerosene oil and report the matter to the Health Officer who will have it properly examined and arrange for the burning of dead rats and all sweepings collected from the house or godown. It is no matter of shame to state that there had been a rat-fall. Rats are likely to fall in a prince's house as well as a beggar's hut. If the dead rat is proved to be one of plague the house or the godown and the neighbourhood should be fumigated and the rat-burrows closed. See that even the burrows on the top of the walls are fumigated and never allow infected materials to be removed before being fumigated. It may also be advisable to leave the house for some time and reoccupy it after a second fumigation, disinfection and white washing.

(2) All the people should get themselves inoculated. This is done free of cost and gives protection for six months.

Some among the inoculated may if they are very careless and freely move in infected areas get an attack of plague but it is then very mild. The death among the inoculated (i.e., 10 days after inoculation) was only 13 per cent while the death among those uninoculated was 57 per cent. Again the death among the inoculated who had proper and timely treatment was only 8 per cent while the death among those uninoculated who had also treatment was 23 per cent. It is therefore very clear that inoculation is a very effective protective measure.

(3) If unfortunately there is an attack, it should be immediately reported to the Health Officer who will arrange for admission and treatment in the Hospital. Modern treatment has advanced and the results are very satisfactory.

(4) It is advisable to change the country tiled roofing in houses, shops and godowns either to a terraced one or at least to mangalore tiled roofing. Country tiles give ample room for rats to live in.

(5) All rumours and wild talks which lead to panic should be discouraged. The public should freely co-operate with the Health authorities in the matter of fumigation, inoculation and treatment. If all people bear the above in mind one need not fear the epidemic of plague at all. The Health authorities are ever keen to take all possible steps in eradicating an epidemic but it

is only with the willing and sympathetic co-operation of the public that such steps will lead to perfect success.

In Udamalpet

The Municipal Town of Udamalpet was infected with plague from the 1st week of November 1946. The virulence of infection steadily increased till about the 2nd week of January and the downward trend was noticed from about the end of 3rd week of January.

As soon as the first infection was detected all precautionary measures were taken to keep the spread of the disease under control. Additional staff was appointed and fumigation of houses was taken on hand. The occupied portion of the town was divided into blocks and systematic blockwar and thorough fumigation of houses and rat-burrows was attended to. To effectively control the spread of the disease outside the town barricades were erected at the exits of the town and careful watch was kept to see that no articles likely to carry infection were allowed to pass these gates without being properly fumigated and disinfected. Long before the town was infected when it was found that the adjacent villages were infected a strict watch was kept on all the incoming articles likely to bring in infection. A central fumigation depot was opened to enable quick and satisfactory disposal of fumigation work.

Inoculation of the people against plague was pushed through; the local medical officer of the Government Hospital and other private medical practitioners were requested to help the Public Health staff in this direction. All the relevant provisions of the Public Health Act and the provisions of the Plague Regulations were availed of to control the disease.

Treatment of Plague Patients

Temporary sheds were erected within the hospital premises with about 24 beds and patients both from the town and surrounding villages were attended to by the Government Medical Officers in-charge of the hospital. In addition to this a shed with about 12 beds was erected for the treatment of cases by a few philanthrophists of this place and the shed was placed in-charge of Dr. K. Sriramamurthi; medicines and diet were supplied by them free and Dr. K. Sriramamurthi attended to these patients free of charge. So far 347 cases have been treated of whom 308 were attended to in the Government Hospital and 39 in the Plague shed; 37 cases were either treated as out-patients mostly because of the fact that the infection was not severe or was beyond medical help when noticed. The percentage of mortality on the whole is 25 as compared with 22·8 being the mortality rate among cases treated in hospitals. This low percentage may be attributed to the field work done by the Public Health Staff in the matter of getting infected patients admitted into the Hospital at the earliest sign, the enthusiasm and co-operation of the surgeons attached to the Government Hospital and other private practitioners particularly of Dr. K. Sriramamurthi in undertaking honorarily to attend on the patients admitted in the shed above referred to and above all the co-operation of the public in the matter of bringing to the notice of the executive information about the infection both among the rat population and the people which went a long way in the control and cure of the disease in the area.

B. & C. Mills Strike

Dr. Rajan Clarifies Government's Position

Clarifying the stand taken by the Government in the matter of the B. & C. Mills strike Dr. Rajan, Minister of Labour, told a group of pressmen on May 30 that the next move should come from the labour leaders. The Government in their communique had clearly stated the reasons why they could not agree to the setting up of a panel of arbitrators consisting of the Premier and the Ministers for Labour and Industries, for if once a panel of that type was constituted and the panel's award was not acceptable to the workers, it would be most improper to refer the award back to a Judge of the High Court. The personnel of the panel who were themselves heads of departments in the Government would be faced with an embarrassing situation if their decision had to be contested judicially. Moreover, the Minister emphasised, the Government could make the management of the Mills accept the decision only if it was given by a Court of Enquiry. Under no other circumstances could the decision be enforced under the existing statutory provision. That was the reason why the Government were suggesting to the workers to call off the strike and accept the Court of Enquiry.